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THURSDAY

December 7, 2006

Volume 43
Issue 24

In Brief

Mary Beth Barker
News Editor

Lambda Chi Alpha hosts toy drive

All week, Associated Students and Lambda Chi are hosting a campus-wide holiday toy drive.

Donations will be given to the Ronald McDonald House and the Rady Children's Hospital.

Participating students can drop off their toys in the Hahn University Center by Dec. 15. They can also participate in the different bake sales and activities sponsored by Greek chapters to raise money to buy new toys. The Greek chapter with the highest number of toys sold will have their chapter's name posted on the front of Maher in lights.

Join The Women's Center in an afternoon of relaxation at the UC

Join other stressed students in a day of pampering at the UC on Fri., Dec. 15 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Students are invited to come down to the student lounge for fun and relaxing activities. There will be massages, facials, food and giveaways. Most importantly, it's all free.

USD holds alternative gift fair

Tuesday, Dec. 12, in front of the UC, students will have the opportunity to buy unique gifts for the holidays.

Developing nations and participants in San Diego non-profit organizations will create homemade items to sell to students.

Money generated from the sale will go back to the organizations or countries. The sale will begin at 11 a.m. and last until 2 p.m..

THIS WEEK

USD CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH LIGHTS AND FESTIVITIES

Campus Focus P.8



FOOTBALL BEATS MONMOUTH IN INAUGURAL GRID-IRON CLASSIC

Sports P.20



TBI AND THEATRE DEPT SUPPORT "COMMUNAL MOURNING" PLAY

Campus Focus P.6



Impact1 brings AIDS awareness to USD

Kate Sullivan
Chief Copy Editor

AIDS, rape and subsequent HIV infection and the kidnapping of children for forced enlistment are heart-wrenchingly addressed in the impact 1 tent in the Camino-Founders courtyard, billed as a multimedia "journey of emotional, spiritual and practical significance."

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and the Romero Center for Faith in Action, a division of University Ministry sponsored the impact 1 campaign at USD. The tent, which was anonymously donated to the La Jolla Presbyterian Church,

see AIDS, page 4



Photos of AIDS victims are strung up the inside of a tent that depicts the lives of three people affected by AIDS.

RYAN BRENNAN/THE VISTA

Maher Hall introduces new safety measures

Natalie Zanzucchi
Editor in Chief

Students who live in Maher Hall are suddenly finding they have to remember their student ID card not to pay for coffee in Aromas, not to open the door to their rooms, but to enter the building they call home after 10 p.m.

Beginning on Nov. 18, every entrance to Maher Hall, except the front door, is locked after 10 p.m. Students must check-in with a Public Safety officer on duty and present their ID card to be granted entrance to the building.

"Every single one of our residential buildings has Onity locks on the external doors,

except Maher," Dayanne Izmirian, Director of Residence Life said.

Onity locks require a USD ID, which acts as a key card for entrance. This lock system was supposed to have been installed in Maher this fall, but due to "hardware glitches" and complications regarding

See MAHER, page 4

Library announces new hours for finals

Natalie Zanzucchi
Editor in Chief

During finals red-eyed students can be found spending grueling, often absurd hours bent over well-worn textbooks in the library. This semester Copely will assist the abnormal schedule of frantic studiers by remaining open 24 hours a day during finals week.

Beginning on Saturday, Dec. 17 Copely Library will open at 10 a.m. and will not



RYAN BRENNAN/THE VISTA

see LIBRARY, page 4 Students study diligently in Copely Library.

Volleyball advances to Sweet 16

Anthony Gentile
Sports Editor

The University of San Diego volleyball team has been to the Sweet 16 before. It has also already played its next tournament opponent this season.

But that doesn't mean the Toreros weren't excited when they beat Duke in five games Saturday to advance to the third round of the NCAA Tournament.

"We were really excited," senior outside hitter Kristen Carlson said, "but we were all so tired from the time difference."

Shrugging off jet lag, USD made its second Sweet 16 appearance in the past three seasons.

See SWEET 16, page 19

The Vista

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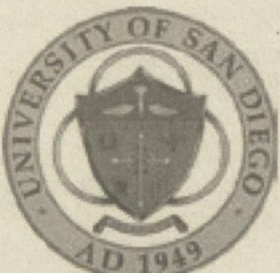
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ORLD BEAT

Sources: BBC, CNN

Mary Beth Barker News Editor

CIA agents accused of "extraordinary rendition"

Italian prosecutors have accused CIA agents and Italian accomplices of kidnapping a Muslim cleric. According to the report, the victim was sent to Egypt where he claims to have been tortured.

In addition, Italy is calling for the indictment of former Italian chief of military intelligence agency, Nicolo Pollari and former deputy, Marco Mancini.

If this case goes on trial, it would be the first prosecution against Bush's policy of sending terrorist suspects abroad to be interrogated.

MySpace's new sex offender

MySpace is work-

ing with Sentinel Tech Holding Corp. to compile a list of names, physical descriptions and other identifiable details on sex offenders. The name of the new predator-catching program is Sentinel Safe.

While this new technology will make it much easier to find and remove sex offenders, MySpace chose not to introduce technology that would verify user's name and age.

Russia's nuclear missiles go mobile

Russia's most important long-range missile can now be launched from an off-road launch vehicle. This makes the missile, Topol-M, harder to detect.

Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov also revealed that the Topol-M would be able to penetrate defense systems multiple layers thick.

According to reports, Russia already has 42 of these missiles set up. This would put Russia in

equal standing with the United States in terms of nuclear power.

Fiji coup compromises their position in the Commonwealth

The military coup in Fiji has attracted international concern and censure. Military commander Frank Bainimarama seized the country in the fourth coup Fiji has gone through in two years.

Bainimarama accused the prime minister of "leading Fiji on a path of doom." As a result of the coup, Britain has retracted their military aid and Australia and New Zealand have called for economic sanctions.

Members from the Commonwealth will meet in London this week to decide whether or not Fiji will be suspended or removed from the Commonwealth.

Hugo Chavez elected to third term in Venezuela

With a clear lead, Hugo Chavez defeated

his latest opponent for the Venezuelan presidency on Sunday.

With a platform of using oil wealth to support social programs, Chavez won the support of millions of poor Venezuelans.

After his win Hugo Chavez, a supporter of Fidel Castro, claimed his election was a victory over the George Bush administration.

Joseph Kabila becomes Congo's new president

After the first democratic election since the Congo's independence in 1960 Joseph Kabila will take the oath of his new office.

Kabila's experience comes from being the Congo's head of state since his father's assassination in January 2001.

He wants to bring the Congo to a state of stability and prosperity after the end of the war.

Heathrow tests new airport security

The British are trying

out new biometric security scanners as a means of added security in airports. The new scanners use fingerprints, facial recognition and eye scanning.

Personal details can also be virtually attached to their passport. These measures have been implemented as a swift, yet effective way to ensure safety while reducing long waits in security lines.

Somali government bans cars

After a suicide car bombing near Baidoa killed nine people the Somali government has banned all cars in the country in order to prevent further attacks.

This attack came less than three months after a previous and nearly-successful attempt to end President Yusuf's life, creating tension in an already unstable government.

Take Back the Night march rallies against rape

Liz Buckley Copy Editor

Residents of Mission Beach stood on their balconies and cheered when the Take Back the Night March, a protest against rape and sexual assault, passed by last weekend; the scene was in stark contrast to the somber mood that has enveloped the residents of Mission Beach since the Oct. 15 sexual assaults and robberies.

Camaraderie and spirits were high as about 100 people walked and chanted up and down Mission Beach and Mission Bay. Holiday parties took a break from the festivities to come see what the commotion was about and offered their support, cheering and clapping.

Alison Herr, Director of Women's Issues in the Women's Center and USD students

involved in the Expose Rape: Take a Stand campaign organized the Take Back the Night March that took place on Dec. 2.

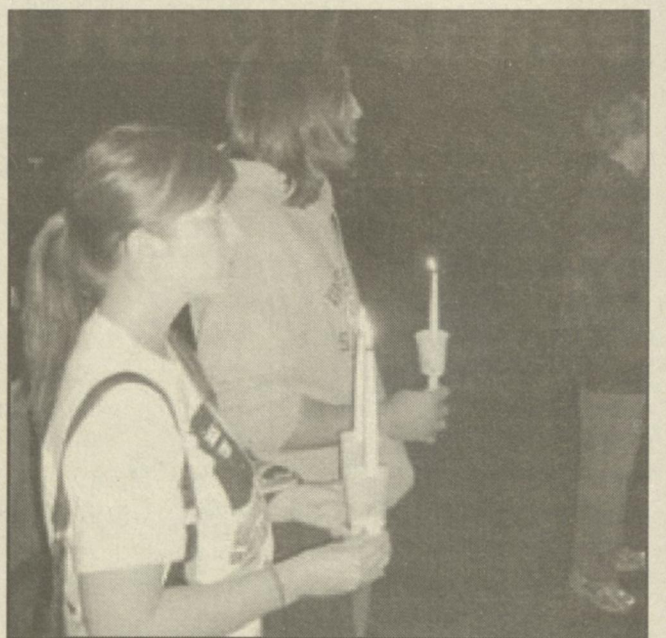
People assembled in Belmont Park for the march at 5 p.m. Participants included USD students, Mission Beach residents and Public Safety officials. Candles were handed out along with a list of chants that included sayings such as "People Unite/Take back the night" and "No more violence/no more rape/no more silence/no more hate." President Mary Lyons gave a speech to kick off the march.

Members of the Expose Rape campaign and participants from the Women's Center held a banner made on a bed sheet which read "Take Back the Night" and started the walk down the boardwalk to the jetty, where the group crossed the street to the Bay Side and walked back to Belmont Park. Altogether the

march lasted about an hour and a half and covered two miles. SDPD contributed to the march by directing traffic and helping the march run smoothly.

Steve Allen, Director of the Center of Community Solution Legal Department, gave a closing speech. He addressed that the problem of rape and sexual assault was almost entirely a problem of violence by men against women, but that they were not merely women's issues. Allen commended the many men in the crowd for their attendance in concert with cheers and applause from the march's female participants.

The march generated public interest and was covered by various news stations, including KUSI, NBC San Diego, Fox 6 news and Univision. Alison Herr was very pleased with the march and said, "The march this past weekend was an amazing success.



JEN LAGEDROST/THE VISTA

Students hold candles symbolizing solidarity and hope.

It was a very powerful night for me; I just felt a real sense of unity with the whole community."

She continued to say, "The administration, the students, the police department and the local residents really came together to support

each other after the tragedy that happened in Mission Beach this past October." Herr wants to focus on the future. "My real wish is that we can construct something positive out of the dialogue that is taking place about rape and sexual assault."

NEWS FOR YOU

Here's what's going on this week in *Toreroville*...

KWANZAA CELEBRATION

Brought to you by BSU

Thursday, Dec. 7th

12pm-2pm in UC 107

Saturday Night at Aromas

Music by Shannon Curtis

December 9, 9pm - 10pm



Student Alumni Association presents the
Alumni Mass and Toy Drive
Saturday, December 9, 5:30pm
Founders Chapel

Feast of Guadalupe

Sunday, December 10, 2006

4:30 PM - 8:00 PM in the Main Dining Room

USD tradition not to be missed. All are welcome to attend this annual dinner of the Feast of Guadalupe

HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS TREES

By Cheri Sicard

The exact origin of the Christmas tree seems under debate, but it is safe to say that this symbol evolved from Pagan tradition.

The Norse pagans and Celtic Druids revered evergreens as manifestations of deity because they did not "die" from year to year but stayed green and alive when other plants appeared dead and bare. The trees represented everlasting life and hope for the return of spring.

The druids decorated their trees with symbols of prosperity -- a fruitful harvest, coins for wealth and various charms such as those for love or fertility. Scandinavian Pagans are thought to be the first to bring their decorated trees indoors as this provided a warm and welcoming environment for the native fairy folk and tree elementals to join in the festivities. The Saxons, a Germanic pagan tribe, were the first to place lights on their trees in the form of candles. Ancient Romans decorated their homes with greens at the Festival of Saturnalia, their New Year and exchanged evergreen branches with friends as a sign of good luck.

The first Christian use of the Christmas tree symbol is credited to 16th century when devout Christians also brought decorated trees into their homes. German born Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, is credited with starting the trend in England in 1841 when he brought the first Christmas Tree to Windsor Castle.

While Europe had already been celebrating Christmas for some time, the first recorded sighting of a Christmas tree in America came in 1830's Pennsylvania. It seems a local church erected the tree as a fundraising effort. Christmas trees were generally not thought kindly of in early America, as many people saw them as Pagan symbols, which is in fact, their origin. By the 1890's, however, Christmas ornaments were being imported from Germany and Christmas trees were in high fashion.

While Europeans generally favored smaller trees about three to four feet in height, Americans, as usual, liked to do things big. Their trees proudly stretched from floor to ceiling. Popular ornaments with the German-Americans were natural items like apples, nuts, berries, marzipan and cookies. Popcorn, an American addition, eventually was added to the mix.

With the advent of electricity, Christmas trees began to appear in town squares across America and the traditional "lighting of the tree" quickly became the official symbols of the beginning of the holiday season.



Open Mic Night

TONIGHT! Thursday, December 7

8:00 PM - 10:30 PM in Aromas

Come relax and enjoy some great music! Free Aromas's gift certificates (including a complimentary drink and pastry) for the first thirty people.

RANDOM RECIPE:

GINGERBREAD MEN!!



- 4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp. ground cinnamon
- 2 tsp. ground ginger
- 1/4 tsp. ground cloves
- 1 1/4 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 3/4 cup molasses

1. In a medium-sized bowl, sift the flour, cinnamon, ginger, cloves and baking soda. Set aside dry ingredients.

2. In a large bowl, blend the butter and brown sugar. Add the eggs, one at a time, and then the molasses. Slowly add the flour mixture to the molasses mixture, stirring after each addition with the wooden spoon or mixer (the dough should be stiff).

3. Divide the dough in half, flatten into a thick pancake and cover with plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 2 hours, or until the dough is firm enough to roll (if it becomes too stiff, soften for 10 minutes at room temperature).

4. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. On a floured counter, roll out the dough to a 1/4-inch thickness. Use cookie cutters to cut out gingerbread men. Bake for 10 minutes, or until light brown.

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Countdown to Christmas...18 days!

Illuminating our campus

...It's
your A.S.

AIDS: Interactive, multimedia demonstration educates students

AIDS, continued

has traveled to San Diego State and UCSD, and will continue on the other universities in the United States.

The tent is a 30-minute multimedia simulated walkthrough of three African people whose lives were affected by HIV, AIDS, and related African strife. Participants carry an mp3 player with headphones and are encouraged to leave their worries of this world behind and immerse themselves in the experience.

Participants are confronted with staggering statistics and anecdotal evidence of life in Africa. The presentation reports that Uganda, with a population of 27,300,000, has an HIV prevalence of 530,000, over 900,000 orphans, and 30,000 children abducted to forcibly serve in the Lord's Resistance Army.

One path through the tent detailed the story of Olivia, a woman who contracted AIDS

after being raped twice by the same man, a result of a commonly-believed myth that intercourse with a virgin will cure HIV.

A prayer wall was provided as a part of the journey; students wrote prayers or thoughts on slips of paper that would be

debriefed participants on how they emotionally experienced the journey. Melissa Anderson, a senior and member of InterVarsity's Leadership Team, spoke of the importance of the deep conversations that come from the impact 1 experience.

"It's really easy to go shallow on this campus," Anderson said. "But we want to talk to you, we want to know what you're feeling."

Organizers encouraged those who went through the tent to sign letters addressed to President Bush and Condoleezza Rice, sign petitions and donate money to World Vision as a way of acting against the human rights

injustices in Africa.

Letters and a donation bin were supplied outside the tent. Information regarding Special Delivery, a program that delivers meals to homebound AIDS patients in San Diego, was also available.

Some students were unmoved by the tent and believed that the problem of AIDS was too big and too far away to solve, ac-

As part of the Impact1 Campaign, intervarsity has organized several discussions on the spiritual aspects of AIDS in Africa.

Monday, Dec. 11 9:00 p.m. in Maher 5th Floor Lounge

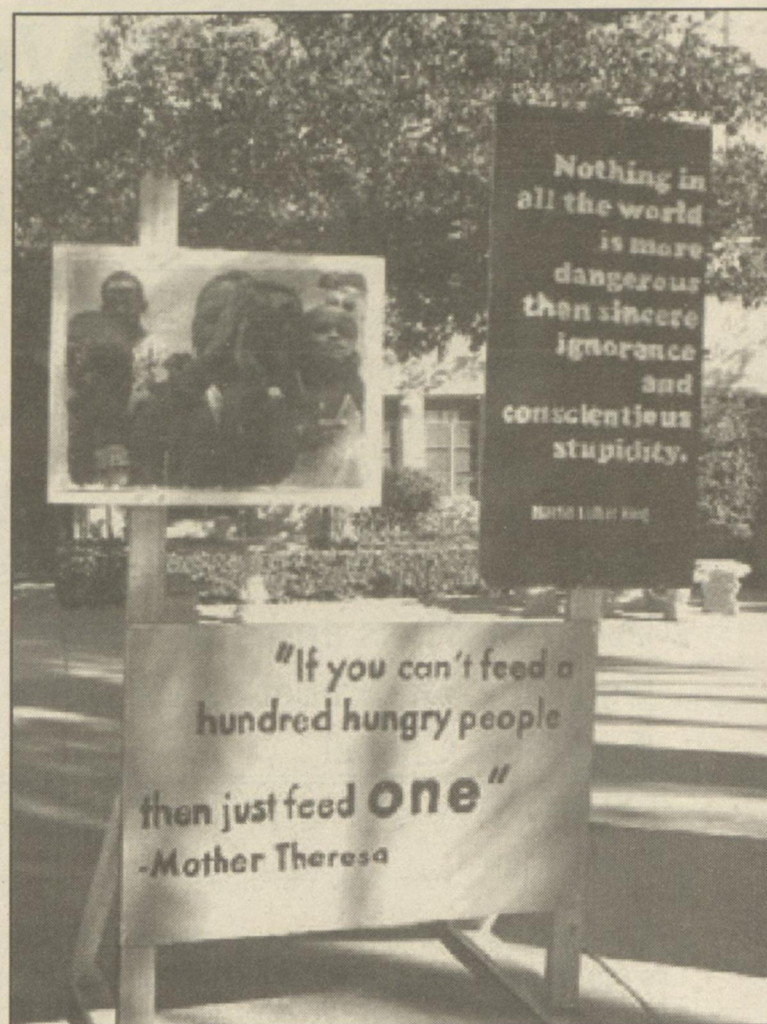
Tuesday Dec. 12 @ 7:00 p.m. in Palomar Lounge

Tuesday Dec. 12 @ 9:00 p.m. in Founders Lounge

Wednesday Dec. 13 @7:30 p.m. in Mission X-roads

sent to World Vision volunteers in Africa, a Christian relief organization. Prayers on the wall included "Sweet Jesus come/ we need you," "yesterday has gone/tomorrow has not come/ we only have today/let us begin" and "Hope is not enough!"

Due to the sensitive subject matter, volunteers from InterVarsity and UM, as well as RAs and members of Greek life



RYAN BRENNAN/THE VISTA

Posted signs feature inspirational quotes and pictures concerning AIDS.

cording to sophomore volunteer Chris Minkoff. "It breaks my heart," Minkoff said. "But you can't force people to care."

However other students who participated in the impact 1 experience enthusiastically recommended walking through the tent. "It's really important for people to go through because

we have a life here, and these children have a life there, but it's the same world," Shawna Fehrman, sophomore, said. "When I walked out of the tent, I felt hopeful, like a light had been shown on the subject."

The tent opened Monday and will remain open until tomorrow from 10 a.m.-12 midnight.

LIBRARY: Open 24 hours

Library, continued

close until Friday, Dec. 22 at 8 p.m.

"We've never done this before," Ed Starkey, University Librarian, said. "As far as I know outside of Public Safety we'll be the only service to open 24 hours."

In the past year Copely has already extended its hours during the school week by changing closing time on Monday through Friday from midnight to 2 a.m.

"It's pretty common for 30 to 40 students to be in here at 1 a.m.," Starkey said. But he does not expect there will be crowds of cramers at four in the morning. In fact, Starkey doesn't have any expectations at all.

"It's an experiment," he said. "We don't have this planned out, we'll just have our doors open."

Starkey credits Melissa Miranda, AS Vice President of Academics for the idea. "She came to me and brought it up. I basically just agreed with her."

Copely student workers will not be working the night shifts. "They technically have final

exams," Starkey said. "I'm not using any of my permanent staff, except one guy [a graduate student at UCSD] who volunteered."

Starkey maintains that despite the fact that the library will literally not shut its doors during finals week "it's not a big splash."

"We're already open until 2 a.m., so it's five hours, not 24."

But for students, it's a bigger deal.

"That's great [that the library will be open 24 hours during finals] because you'll be able to study as long as you want without going back to your room and getting distracted," Jennifer Fennessy, junior, said.

To further assist students' attempts to stay awake during late study sessions Dining Services may pitch in. "Dining Services is working on hours for Aromas for that week," Rudy Spano, Director of Dining Services said.

Copely plans to continue a 24-hour a day schedule during finals even after this semester. And, as always, Public Safety offers a free escort service for students.

MAHER: Boosts security measures

Maher, continued

the numerous doors throughout the building, their installation has been pushed back to February.

In the mean time a Public Safety officer will be on duty each night between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

"This was implemented in response to requests from Maher resident students and their parents to address the issue of non-residents entering Maher Hall after hours," Larry Barnett, Assistant Vice President of finance and administration for Public Safety said.

The security measures come after students have reported seeing suspicious people in their hallways.

"It's crazy what has happened this year," an RA in Maher who wished to remain unidentified said.

"There have been guys who've tried to push their way into my girls' rooms."

Chief Barnett reports that since the Nov. 18 implementation of a Public Safety check-in there have been "five incidents involving non-USD individuals

When it's student-to student crime, it's really hard. If people have their doors locked we can track it, but mostly its crimes of opportunity where people leave their doors or windows unlocked."

Dayanne Izmirian, Director of Residence Life

who have attempted to enter the building that were not guests of Maher residents."

Students living in Maher have mixed reactions about the new security measures.

"Although I appreciate the new security measures, they will take some getting used to," Maggie Koos, freshman, said.

Locking every entrance to the building affects the openness that draws students to live in Maher, even though students can still exit through locked doors.

"Obviously I want to feel safe, but one of the main reasons I wanted to live

in Maher was the openness and the freedom," Wyatt Harrison, freshman, said.

While locking additional entrances to the building and keeping a Public Safety officer on duty between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. may prevent non-USD students from entering the building, Maher remains one of the residential areas most highly affected by theft.

"When it's student-to student crime, it's really hard," Izmirian said. "If people have their doors locked we can track it, but mostly its crimes of opportunity where people leave their doors or windows unlocked... Students still need to watch out for each other. That's really important."



public safety report

Nov. 27 - Dec. 3

University Center: Public safety is currently investigating the theft of three backpacks from the Main Dining cubby holes. The two thefts occurred on 11-27 and 11-30.

Laguna: At approximately 8:37 p.m. Public Safety responded to a report of the theft of a bicycle between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.. Upon investigation the bicycle was said to have been secured with a chain lock which was also missing.

MaHer Hall: At approximately 11:55 p.m. Resident Assistants cited seven resident students for Minor in Possession and one resident student for being in the presence of alcohol.

Manchester Village Garage:

At approximately 3:25 p.m. Public Safety responded to a report of the theft of a digital camera and checkbook from a locked vehicle. Upon investigation the driver's side key hole had been found to be tampered with.

Loma Hall: At approximately 7:19 a.m. Public Safety responded to a report of a university owned painting that had been damaged. Upon investigation there was a large tear in the painting and it appeared that someone had hit it with their fist.

San Rafael: At approximately 3:30 p.m. Public Safety responded to a request from a Resident Director to conduct a room search. Upon investigation a small amount of marijuana,

a scale and drug paraphernalia were found in the resident's room.

San Rafael: At approximately 1:32 p.m. Public Safety responded to a late report of the theft of two university owned mattresses from a resident hall common area.

MaHer Hall: At approximately 2:27 p.m. Public Safety responded to a late report of the theft of an unsecured bicycle.

San Rafael: At approximately 11:50 p.m. Resident Assistants cited two students for minor in possession.

Camino Hall: At approximately 3:34 a.m. Public Safety responded to a report of an intoxicated resident student that had entered the

Resident Director's residence without permission. Upon investigation the resident was evaluated and it was determined he was too intoxicated to care for himself. The resident student was then voluntarily transported to Detox.

MaHer Hall: At approximately 8:05 p.m. Public Safety responded to a report of a resident hall room that possibly contained illegal drugs. Upon investigation a search of the resident hall room was conducted. Marijuana and a scale were found in the resident hall room.

MaHer Hall: At approximately 1:27 a.m. Resident Assistants cited three students for Minor in Possession and seven resident students for

being in the presence of alcohol.

MaHer Hall: At approximately 2:26 a.m. Resident Assistants cited one resident student for minor in possession and two resident students for being in the presence of alcohol.

Missions A: At approximately 2:55 a.m. Public Safety responded to a report of a suspicious male that was trying to enter the female residence halls. Upon investigation it was determined he was a resident student. Upon further investigation he was found to be in possession of a fake identification card and alcohol. The male student was cited for Minor in Possession.

If you need help or see something suspicious, contact Public Safety at ext. 7777

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Copley Library Extended Hours

24
Hours
Finals
Week

**Extended
Hours
Dec 1-16**

**Finals Week
Open
24 Hours**

**Mon-Thurs 7:30am-2am
Fridays 7:30am-9pm
Saturdays 10am-9pm
Sundays 10am-2am**

**Sun Dec 17
@10am until
Friday Dec 22
@8pm**

Season of giving meets the hype



Patrick Brady

Campus Focus Editor

December is characterized as a season of giving, a circumstance that's typically misconstrued by the commercial holidays of Christmas and Chanukah, however a recent USD grant exemplifies this spirit of generosity. On Oct. 25, the University received a grant to encourage disadvantaged youths to attend college. The three-year grant of \$3 million was awarded to USD's Center for Community Service Learning and will increase the number of low-income and disadvantaged students preparing for and succeeding in college. Ultimately, the goal of the program is to encourage disadvantaged and lower-income youth to pursue college degrees and feel comfortable with the prospect of attending college.

The success of the grant is contingent on an all-inclusive coalition of educational institutions committed to the youth and communities of San Diego. USD will lead this coalition, which includes Mesa College, San Diego City College and UCSD. The potential gains from the grant have many excited about the future, including university President Mary Lyons.

"USD is embarking on this program because we are deeply concerned about California's large percentage of young people who are not on the college track," Lyons said, in press release concerning the grant. "At USD we believe strongly that college attendance will endow students with skills and knowledge that will contribute to their own intellectual growth."

USD obtained the grant through their long-standing membership in California Campus Compact (CACC). This organization has donated several small grants to the university over the years, in recognition of USD's strong service-learning programs.

According to USD's Center for Community Service Learning Director Elaine Elliot, the university has experienced great success in its community service learning program, including being named one of the "81 Colleges with a Conscience" by the Princeton Review.

"I have the highest respect for our students, and their goodwill," Elliot said. "We want to do a leadership institute where we would help train USD students to have more knowledge about what they can say or information they can pass-on that would help [disadvantaged youth] have a sense that they can go to college."

Students who are considering the stipulations of their New Year's resolution might consider volunteering for this program and hopefully making a difference in the lives of our regionally disenfranchised youths.

USD bookstore defends book buy-back

Bahareh Kamoei

Staff Writer

It's that time of year again—time to resell old books and hope to acquire as much money as possible for them. How much can one actually receive during this time?

USD students considering selling their books back to the bookstore have stated, "I'm not sure yet ... don't you only get back one third of the money spent?" Jeff Edelen, the bookstore department manager, said that book buy-back price is contingent on various factors.

"You can actually get up to 50 percent back," Edelen said.

Factors that reduce the amount students collect include water damage and severe book destruction. Also, if book orders are not placed by teachers before book buy-back period, books lose their value since they might not be used next semester. If a book surplus exists, that also affects the price.

However, if books will be used in the upcoming term and there isn't a surplus of books, students are encouraged to sell their books back to the bookstore.

Edelen said that the bookstore promotes book buy-back through flyers, lawn signs and a new website.

"Starting last year, our web site allows students to log-in and check how much they can expect to receive," Edelen said.

Edelen also noted the benefits of the bookstore's book buy-back program.

"There is a sense of a trickle-down effect. Students that do sell back their books provide other students with the



SAFIYA GOVANI/THE VISTA

Students are disgruntled by the return value of books they sell back to the bookstore.

opportunity of being able to purchase a used book," Edelen said.

Some students doubt the perceived benefits of the program.

"It feels like I never get back half of the money I spend on books," Grant Wenkstern, senior said. "Students should always receive at least 50 percent."

This is true, and even Edelen agrees. However, the bookstore has to respect

the relative value of the books, taking into account damage and their potential use in the future.

In the meantime, increasing communication between faculty and the bookstore seems to be the only way to raise book buy-back return values. If professors place their book orders in a timely manner students will be able to receive the best buy-back value possible.

Campus Recreation saddles up Equestrian club has eyes set on reaching regionals

Claire Kelly

Guest Writer

At well over five-feet tall and weighing around 1500 pounds, a horse is a powerful, intelligent animal that often has sense of mischief, which, even for an experienced rider, can make for a bumpy ride.

However, the members of the USD equestrian club team take it all in stride.

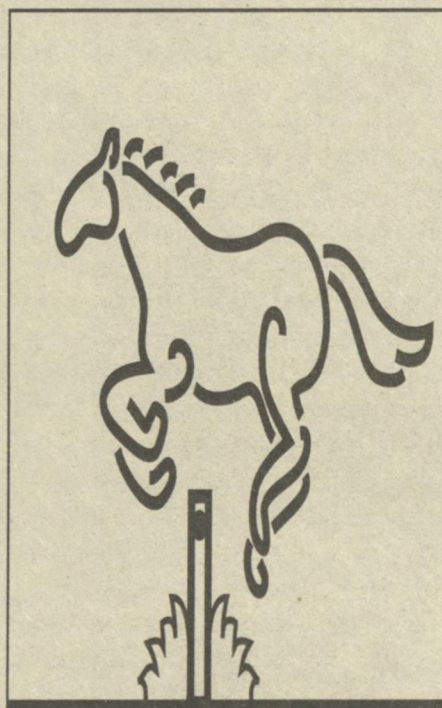
At team practices (called clinics) the bond and respect between rider and horse is evident. The team rides English style and includes members of all skill levels.

Some riders have been competing for their entire lives, while some have only recently learned to ride.

Surprisingly, not many team members have their own horses. At clinics, the team works on correct riding position, called equitation, while they learn the jumping and flat work that they will be judged on in competition.

To keep the riders on their toes, they ride a different horse at each clinic. This also helps them to prepare

for competitions. In working with various horses, the team members become accustomed to and create friendships with all kinds of horses.



GRAPHIC BY ASHTON TESKE/THE VISTA

Jumping is just one aspect of horse-riding.

The equestrian club team is a part of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Asso-

ciation and competes with teams from all over California.

At competitions, each rider randomly selects a horse that they are not familiar with and then competes in divisions relative to their skill.

Team captain, sophomore Riley Anderson, said that shows are "a great experience for all riders because you ride all kinds of horses and have to adjust accordingly."

There are divisions for the inexperienced rider, such as walk-trot, up to difficult jumping divisions for the skilled competitor.

The USD club team has been successful in competitions and hopes to reach the regional competition this year. Because of their successful year, the equestrian club team wants to grow and expand. Riley stresses that all skill levels are welcome and said, "We actually need someone without much experience as a walk-trot rider because we don't have one."

All that is required is a pair of riding boots, a willingness to learn and of course, a love for horses. Those interested in participating can sign up at the Rec. Department.

TBI grant sponsors "Dia de Los Muertos" play

Students perform scenes from Cruz's work in progress

Vanessa Guzman

Managing Editor

In the center of a room painted black nine students sat in a semi-circle with script in hand, patiently waiting for their chance to deliver their lines. Theatre Professor Evelyn D. Cruz introduced the first-draft of her work, titled "Communal Mourning," a "Dia de los muertos" play to a small, but jam-packed audience.

"Communal Mourning" is one of many projects that are funded by Trans-Border Institute intramural grants. Cruz thanked her sponsors, TBI and the Theatre Arts program, for sponsoring her play. "Letting out my baby before it's fully mature is an act of faith and vulnerability," she said.

Cruz thanked the audience for their attendance to the first reading, inviting everyone to stay afterwards and give input. Cruz's work-in-progress was brought to life by live music and traditional mourning songs as she explored issues of death, life and immigration in relation to the U.S./Mexico border.

An emphasis on border relations and exploring issues of social justice are some of the elements that are required for TBI intramural grant recipients.

According to TBI Operation Coordinator Charles Pope, the purpose of intramural grants is to fund faculty research projects and related activity projects that focus on some aspect of the U.S./Mexico relationship.

**"Letting out
my baby
before it's fully
matured is an
act of faith
and vulner-
ability."
Evelyn Cruz**

Some of the recipients of TBI grants include USD Symphony Director Angela Yeung, who was given two grants, totaling over \$16,000, to fund faculty research and a joint

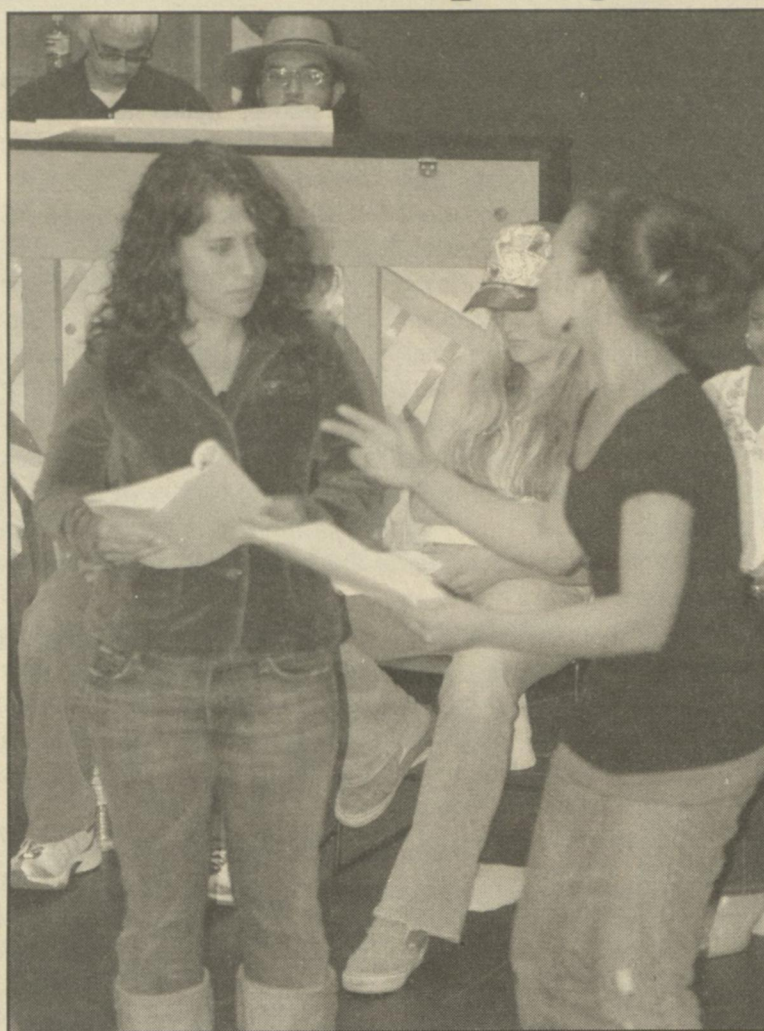
tour through Mexico with the Sinfónica Juvenil de Tijuana to Morelia and Acambaro, the first major collaboration of the USD Symphony and its first international tour.

Anthropology Director Alana Cordy-Collins received a \$3,014 TBI grant to fund her project, titled "Re-Discovering Tijuana: USD Guide to Tijuana."

The output of the project will include a brochure and website by which the USD community can become familiar with the positive cultural features of Tijuana.

Ethnic Studies Director Alberto Pulido received a grant totaling \$5,500 to support an academy that will support the continued leadership development of immigrant constituents from San Diego county in order to strengthen the relationship between immigrant leaders and the USD community.

USD staff, faculty and students can submit proposals for grants; collaborations with individuals and institutions outside of USD are also encouraged. About 45 grants have been awarded since the first grant was awarded in 1998. Two TBI



SAFIYA GOVANI/THE VISTA

Students perform a scene from Cruz's play "Communal Mourning."

grant informational sessions are scheduled for next semester. The application deadline for

grants is March 15, 2007 and more information is available on the TBI website.



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USD hosts first annual Festival of Lights

Students assemble to welcome the holiday season

Dima Askar

Staff Writer

Associated Students and Lambda Chi Alpha sponsored the first annual USD Festival of Lights at Colachis Plaza, on Monday, Dec. 4. The event included lighting a Christmas tree, taking pictures with Santa Claus, drinking hot chocolate, decorating personal stockings and singing and dancing to Christmas carols.

President Mary Lyons led over 300 students in a prayer on Monday at 7 p.m. before turning on the tree lights.

The tree was placed by the fountain in between "a symbol of faith, the Immaculata and a symbol of wisdom, the education buildings of the university," Lyons said.

Students were excited about the event and many wondered why USD has not held this event in the past years.

"I am surprised they haven't done it before. It is nice to see the campus decked out with lights," Jackie Ferguson, senior said.

"I think that this new tradition

is wonderful and it is a great way to bring the spirit of Christmas to campus," Lyons said. "I hope that it will carry on in the years to come."

Beth Yañez, a senior and AS VP of Finance, was "the inspiration behind this event," Carmen Vazquez, Vice President of Student Affairs, said.

Yañez dreamed about getting the community together to celebrate the holidays; she wanted all faiths to partake in the event to promote and educate others about their celebrations.

"As a Catholic university and as an active community in American traditions, I believe USD should light up the campus. Lights are a symbol of life and they bring about the joy of the season," Yañez said.

"AS made a great effort to bring about school spirit," Dana Flack, freshmen said.

Students hope that this event will become a tradition for USD. The USD Festival of Lights would not be complete without Santa Claus. Santa's message to the USD students was "Be good; you only have three more weeks and if you are good you will get



SAFIYA GOVANI/THE VISTA

Students decorate stockings and drink hot chocolate at Colachis Plaza in front of the Immaculata.

good grades."

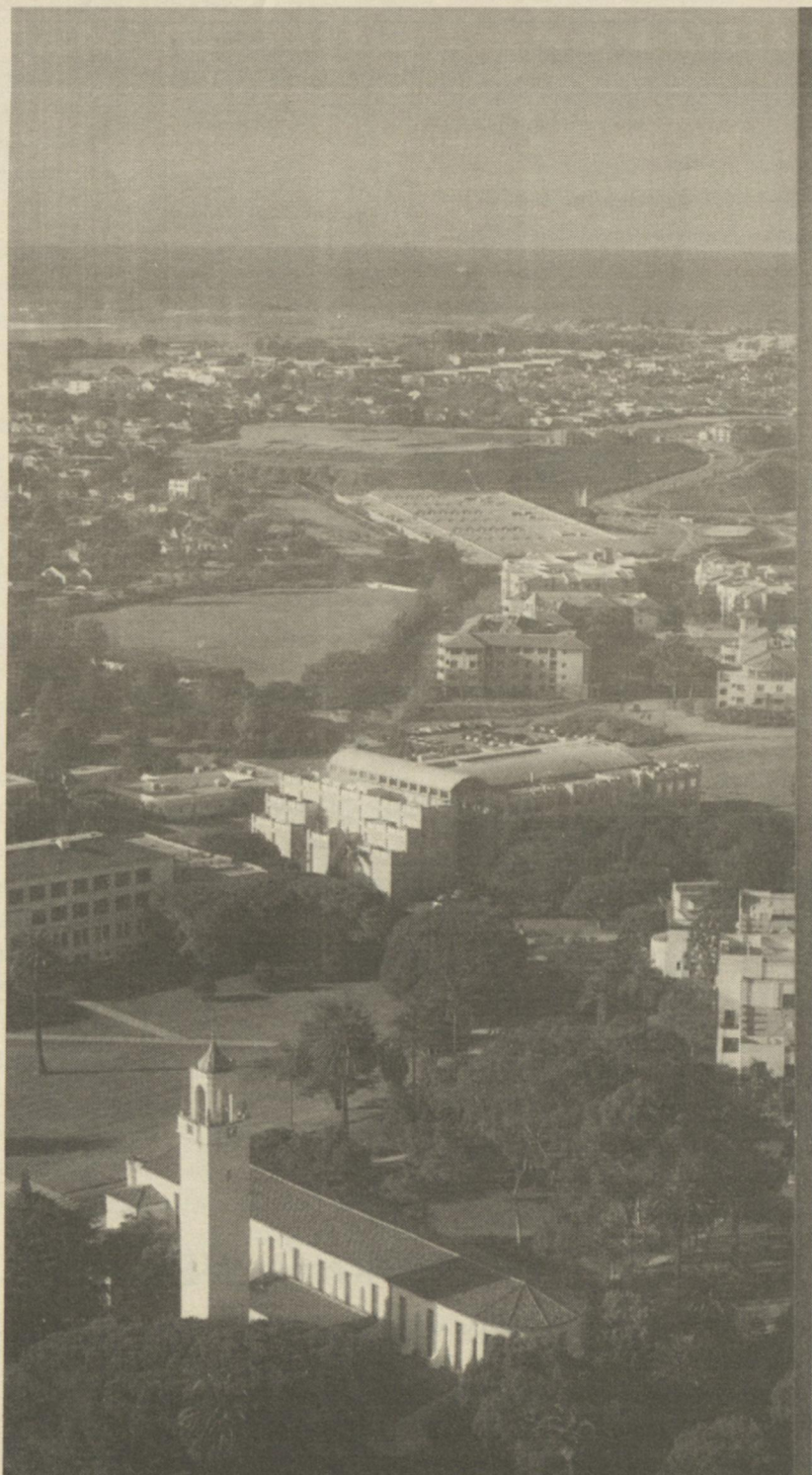
Christmas lights on Marian Way will be turned on each night from 7 to 10 p.m. until Dec. 26. Furthermore, the Festival of Lights is an opening for a variety of holiday events on campus.

Lambda Chi Alpha is putting on a toy drive to benefit San

Diego children in need through the Ronald McDonald House and Rady Children's Hospital. Students who would like to donate toys can bring them to UC 225 by Dec. 15.

There are two contests being held at USD for door decorating. One is for all the departments on

campus. Those who wish to enter must contact Beth Yañez before Dec. 13 at beth-07@sandiego.edu. The second door-decorating contest is sponsored by AS and RHA and will take place in the residence halls. A committee will judge doors for both contests on Dec. 15.



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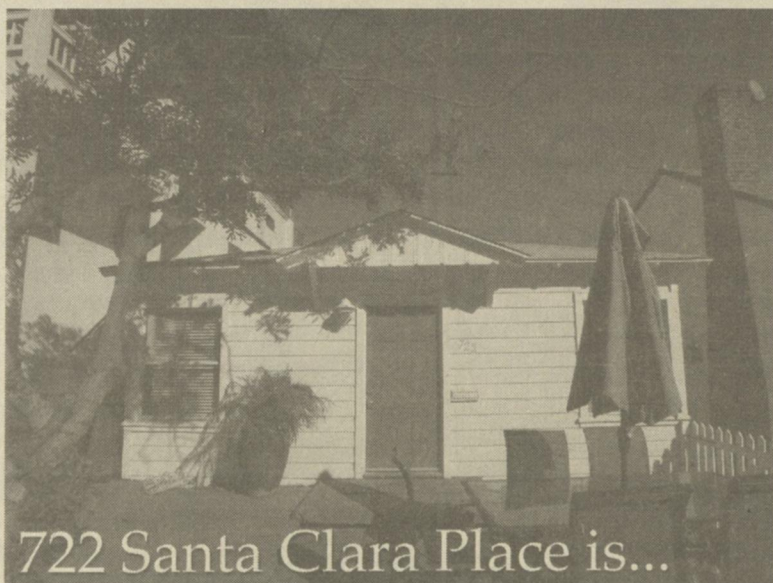
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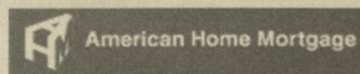


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Celebrate festive December around San Diego

Ashley McLean

Feature Editor

It's the most wonderful time of the year! A time when the air is a little bit colder, lights adorn the palm trees and the smell of pine is abundant.

This winter many things are happening around San Diego to get you in the holiday spirit. Read on to find out how you can participate in this festive December!

7 December

USD Kwanzaa Celebration 12:30 – 2 p.m.
Hosted by the Black Students Union in UC-107 Conference Room.

6th Annual Central Village Holiday Tree Lighting 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Central Village will have a holiday tree lighting event with a visit from Santa and holiday music. For more information contact Chris Gomez at (619) 233-5009.

8 16th Annual NBC/USMCR Toys for Tots Toy Drive (2 day event)

6 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Local U.S. Marines will receive new, unwrapped toys for needy families this holiday season at the NBC studio (225 Broadway Circle). For more information contact Isabel Valdez at (619) 578-0502 or go to www.nbcsandiego.com.

Christmas on the Promenade (2 day event) 4 – 9 p.m.

This event will feature Christmas music, hot chocolate, holiday food, gift shopping, carriage rides, fun jumps, a snow hill, clowns and art activities. The main highlight will be the 25 elaborately decorated Christmas trees. For more information contact De De Knapp at (858) 320-2055 or go to www.christmasonthepromenade.org.

9 12th Annual Jingle Bell 5K Run/Walk for Arthritis

6 – 10 a.m.
Put a little jingle in your step in Balboa Park and help raise funds to cure arthritis. The Arthritis Foundation sponsors this fun event. Admission is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. For more information contact Rachel Landolt at (858) 492-1090 or go to www.arthritis-sandiego.org to register.

Snow Day at Park at the Park 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

More than 40-tons of snow will be at Petco Park for people to sled on and make craft ornaments. There will be carolers singing and classic holiday movies playing. Admission is a donation of canned food items and the event is hosted by the Downtown

Communications Council. For more information contact Grace Madamba at (619) 533-7148 or go to www.ccdc.com.

12th Annual Pacific Beach Holiday Parade 12 – 2 p.m.

On Haines St, Garnet Ave and Bayard St people will be lined up to watch a parade of holiday spirit. The event, hosted by Discover Pacific Beach Hospitality Task Force, will include marching bands, floats, clowns and Santa. For more information contact Benjamin Nicholls at (858) 273-3303 or go to www.pacificbeach.org.

35th Annual Mission Bay Boat Parade of Lights 6 – 9 p.m.

Watch as boats light up the waters of Mission Bay in single file while traditional holiday music plays. This event is hosted by the Mission Bay Yacht Club. For more information contact Bryon Miller at (858) 457-0416.

15th Annual Holiday Ice Show: Believe 12, 3:30, and 7 p.m.

The San Diego Ice Arena presents an ice skating show in Mira Mesa. Admission is \$15 or \$25 for VIP Seating. For more information or tickets call (858) 530-1825, ext. 302.

10 USD Lady of Guadalupe Mass in Spanish

12 p.m.
Held in Founders Chapel.

USD Feast of Guadalupe 4:30 – 8 p.m.

The Main Dining Room will have its annual holiday dinner, Feast of Guadalupe, with traditional Mexican food.

35th Annual San Diego Bay Boat Parade of Lights (2 day event) 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

After a firework show, about 100 decorated boats and yachts will light up San Diego Bay. Holiday music will also be playing. You can see the show from Shelter Island, Harbor Island, Seaport Village, and Coronado Island. For more information contact Tina Pierce at (619) 686-6463 or go to www.sdparadeoflights.org.

12 USD Lady of Guadalupe Mass

8 p.m.
Held in UC Forum A/B

51st Annual Las Pasadas Luminarias 7 – 9 p.m.
The Save Our Heritage Organization will host a biblical procession in Old Town State Park with a costumed re-enactment of Mary and Joseph. A chorus will be singing Christmas songs too. For more information contact Alana Coons at (619) 297-9327.

USD Christmas Dinner 4:30 – 8 p.m.
The Main Dining Room will have its annual holiday dinner, Christmas Dinner.

7th Annual Hanukkah Menorah Display (15 day event) 7 – 11:59 p.m.

Throughout Hanukkah, a huge Menorah will be displayed in the heart of La Jolla at Prospect and Herchel Street. For more information contact Rabbi Ezabvi at (619) 507-8340 or go to www.chabad.org.

16 Holiday Teddy Bear Dance

7 – 10 p.m.
The Therapeutic Recreation Services will host this Teddy Bear Dance in Balboa Park for all teens or adults with any disability. Admission is \$5 or a new teddy bear. For more information contact Rose Caldwell at (619) 525-8247.

32nd Annual Hmong New Year Celebration (4 day event) 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Hmong New Year is a cultural festival where household spirits are renewed, ancestral spirits are honored and shamanic spirits are dispatched temporarily. The Lao Hmong Family Association will host this celebration in Kearny Mesa Recreation Park. For more information contact Pao Xiong at (858) 610-3815 or go to www.lhfassd.org.

11th Annual Memorial Christmas Motorcycle Toy Run 6 – 10 p.m.
Santa and his elves will be riding motorcycles while

other riders escort them down Market Street. There will be music and Santa will hand out Christmas gifts to everyone there. For more information contact Netreia Carroll at (619) 886-1023 or go to www.shabach.org.

During the month

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Nov. 11 – Dec. 29

In its 9th year, the Old Globe Theater will be performing this classic holiday story. For more information or tickets go to www.theoldglobe.org or call (619) 23GLOBE.

Ice Skating in Horton Square Nov. 16 – Jan. 7
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. everyday, Adults are \$12, Children are \$10.

For more information call (858) 530-1825 or go to www.sdice.com.

Ice Skating at Hotel Del Nov. 23 – Jan. 1
2 – 5, 6 – 9 p.m. 3 hours is \$20 for adults, 2 hours is \$15 for adults, skate rentals are \$5.

Gingerbread City Nov. 30 – Month of Dec.
The Epilepsy Foundation's "Gingerbread City" Structures are on display at the Downtown Information Center.

Garden of Lights Dec. 7-10, 14-23 and 26-30
5 – 9 p.m. Quail Botanical Gardens will have more than 90,000 sparkling lights illuminating the gardens. Activities will also include crafts, photos with Santa, marshmallow roasting, hot cider, food from El Pollo Loco and live entertainment. Admission will be \$8 for adults. For more information call (760) 436-3036 or go to www.qbgardens.org.

Christmas Lights

Christmas Circle Dec. 10 – 25
5 – 10 p.m. Whitney Street Chula Vista

Jingle Bell Hill Dec. 10 – 31
6 – 10 p.m. Pepper Drive, El Cajon

Christmas Card Lane Dec. 10 – 31
6 – 10 p.m. Oviedo Street, Rancho Penasquitos

Fall semester brings hope to editor



Natalie Zanzucchi

Editor in Chief

This semester more than ever before, I have seen the USD community come together. I have spent nearly three and a half years as a member of this community without really recognizing the value or the reality of that word.

I have also noticed, however, the reality of adversity that has the ability to creep into corners of a world as close-knit as USD. This semester I have cried with people I haven't known very long; I have stood speechless before some of my closest friends and I have yelled at the top of my lungs in rage, but also affirmation of my rights. And this question continues to persist: How do you react on a purely human level to atrocities that rob people of their essential humanity?

I'm not referring solely to the horrific crimes that have wracked the Mission Beach community with fear and have continued to cause unbearably deep pain, but also to hate crimes, rapes and sexual assaults that happen on this campus and that have happened

on this campus in the past.

People have expressed concern that it took something terrifying for USD to finally come together. However, this campus has long been a community and only now am I recognizing the significance of that.

It is true what they say, that if you want something done right you have to do it yourself; along the same lines, if you want something done at all, you cannot expect anyone else to get that done for you. Spreading to the very fingertips of our figurative student body, this truth is enacted.

Expose Rape: Take a Stand has publicly tackled an issue previously shoved into the corner and provided the much needed space for survivors, friends of survivors and anyone concerned by the prevalence of sexual assault to translate their feelings into action.

T.R.E.E. advocates for more recycling receptacles on campus. The Young Democrats brought congresswomen and men to campus to address issues that affect our particular community of young voters and the College Republicans will join them in a debate today.

The Center for Community Service Learning and the Romero Center will both sponsor international service trips this winter. The Multicultural Center continues to bring us socially and culturally aware programs.

AS has successfully planned numerous events that benefit both our

community and the greater community surrounding our campus.

Thousands of dollars for various philanthropies have been raised by our campus Greek community. And I could go on and on about University Ministry, various honor societies, lecture series, clubs, centers and institutes each contributing to the meaning of the word community.

Community means power, and the positive sense of that word. Together we are so powerful. Together we can clean a huge expanse of the beach, we can raise awareness about AIDS, we can give families a Christmas they deserve and we can change the culture that allows rape to happen.

The catch is that we all have to be committed to changing these things and supporting each other's efforts. We have to treat every single person we come into contact with with dignity and respect.

I am confident that USD is doing exactly what its mission statement claims it does, "preparing leaders dedicated to ethical conduct and compassionate service." We are a campus full of those leaders and I have borne witness to their service.

As our community returns to its independent roots during the holiday season, my hope is we will each bring this energy home, let it be nurtured and return to USD reinvigorated with love and compassion, peace and community.

Letter to the Editor

Media fails to report politically motivated suicide.

I am bothered about how our mainstream media decided not to cover the story of Malachi Ritscher's self-immolation. I am not aware if the Vista community knows about what this man did but they should.

I was listening to NPR today listening to this story about this man who opposed the U.S. occupation of Iraq. He chose to make a statement by committing suicide by self-immolation on the side of Kennedy Expressway near downtown Chicago.

Many blog about how he was mentally unstable and the war was just a reason for him to take his own life. Others say they did not air such a story in fear of copycats. I believe he knew what he was doing.

He states that, "My position is that I only get one death, I want it to be a good one. Wouldn't it be better to stand for something or make a statement, rather than a fiery collision with some drunk driver? Are not smokers choosing death by lung cancer? Where is the dignity there? Are not the people the people [sic] who disregard the environment killing themselves and future generations?"

I would really like to see our college-run paper, *The Vista*, not be categorized with the mainstream. I would like to see *The Vista* research this event and tell our school community what happened and why they didn't view this story on CNN.

Matthew Martinez, Senior

Catholic values missing from policy

Student takes initiative to change Financial Aid

Michael Hamilton

Guest Writer

As a new transfer student to the University of San Diego, my limited experience with the school has been very positive. However, as the semester draws to an end, it feels like a burden on my shoulders is getting heavier with every passing day.

It is not the ten hours of final exams that I will take in the coming weeks that I dread; it is that I know I will have to prepare for another episode with the office of financial aid.

Listed on page 13 of the Financial Aid Consumer Information guide (conspicuously missing from the Guide to Applying for Financial Aid), it is stated that regardless of any financial need on the student's part, the university will never give out gift aid greater than was given to the student during his or her first year at USD.

What does this mean to students? It means that if a parent loses a job, a sibling enrolls in college or some other economic crisis happens, many students might have to make the decision between graduating with a debt that will burden them for most of their adult lives or leaving the university.

When facing huge tuition fees that the student and his or her family cannot afford, more is needed from the finan-

cial aid office than saying, "Well, there are plenty of loans out there." This callousness seems out of place on a campus that publicly touts itself as the "University of Compassion, Wisdom, Justice," and so on.

One of the principles listed on the USD website states: "There is an essential unity among human persons such that common good takes priority over individual, self-serving goals." Extracting the maximum revenue from students in times of need is one such goal, and is fundamentally incompatible with what the college claims to stand for.

Unfortunately, this is just one problem of many. I would like to take this opportunity to invite the University of San Diego community to join a new student organization, Fix Financial Aid, to discuss problems the student body currently faces, propose changes and finally, work with the administration to implement change in a way that is beneficial for everyone.

To do so, please sign up for the mailing list at www.fixfinaid.com. I will be sending out information on how you can help in the near future.

In the university's efforts to reach national prominence in higher education, we should also be attempting to distinguish USD with a policy that is compassionate, wise and just.

Real Rebel Rock Returns

Zach Barr

Guest Writer

I often find the most exasperating time of my day is the time I spend in my car, listening to the radio. In between aggravating commercials where synthesized voices screech about low financing to the tune of explosions and reverb, we are treated to music that is more concerned with telling the same story over and over again than something original.

I am by no stretch of the imagination a music critic or expert, but what I hear on the run-of-the-mill radio stations in town is too much for me; it's manufactured, prepackaged and much of it is without imagination or inspiration.

Enter Tinariwen, a band of Tuareg shepherders whose blues inspired psychedelic rock was born and bred deep in rebel encampments and refugee camps. This is rock without pretenses, rock made by men and women who were rebels first, musicians second.

Fighting for Tuareg independence from the government of Mali, Tinariwen was formed in 1982 in the Tuareg rebel camps of Moammar al-Qadhafi after a severe drought in their homeland. Self-taught, the musicians came to use their music as a political weapon, and since achieving worldwide notoriety they have brought attention to both their culture and cause.

Listening to Tinariwen is almost a religious experience; the rhythmic chanting and guitars mixed with native instruments and tribal drumbeats is perfect for working out, writing, studying, or most importantly, grooving.

With lyrics in both French and the bands native Tamashek, the music is accessible even without understanding the pain, hope and anger of the lyrics. With 11 active members, including six guitar players (yes six), two percussionists and three vocalists, Tinariwen's music is simple yet deep, and don't be fooled, the guitar work is comparable to, if not better than, that of many Western contemporaries.

Fans of jam bands and sixties-era rock will rejoice in the trippy guitar riffs, and fans of world music will enjoy the exotic yet accessible nature of their music. I cannot recommend Tinariwen enough; available on iTunes, it is worth it to at least listen to a sample of their music.

"The Radio Tisdas Sessions" is their first and most important record. "Nar Djenetbouba" is a perfect introduction to the band's style. "Tin-Essako" is sure to get everyone rowdy on the dance-floor, while "Imidiwaren" is a perfect example of how psychedelic the band can be.

So do a favor to me, yourself and our friends Tinariwen, and check out some real rebel rock.

Lack of plan disappoints aspiring rebel

Jeff Coyle

Guest Writer

Last week I was taking a stroll through campus when a flyer grabbed my attention: "REBEL AGAINST THE CAMPUS LEFT, with the USD College Republicans." I was amazed; finally, a cause I could get behind. I've been a student at USD for three years, and I've never really had the desire to go to a meeting of the College Republicans because they just weren't getting the point.

They always advertised with boring ads such as "learn the issues," "discuss the agendas" and other worthless jargon. But OK, I thought, these College Republicans were finally getting it. A part of me was still enraged that these conscientious college students had to deal with this issue in the first place (the rebellion that is).

Let's be real, if USD recruiters were doing their jobs they would've weeded out Liberals before they stepped foot on our pristine campus in the first place. Isn't there a bubble you have to fill in on the USD application to screen for this type of behavior? I know you have to mark down if you were previously convicted of a felony, and I don't see why being a Liberal should be treated any differently.

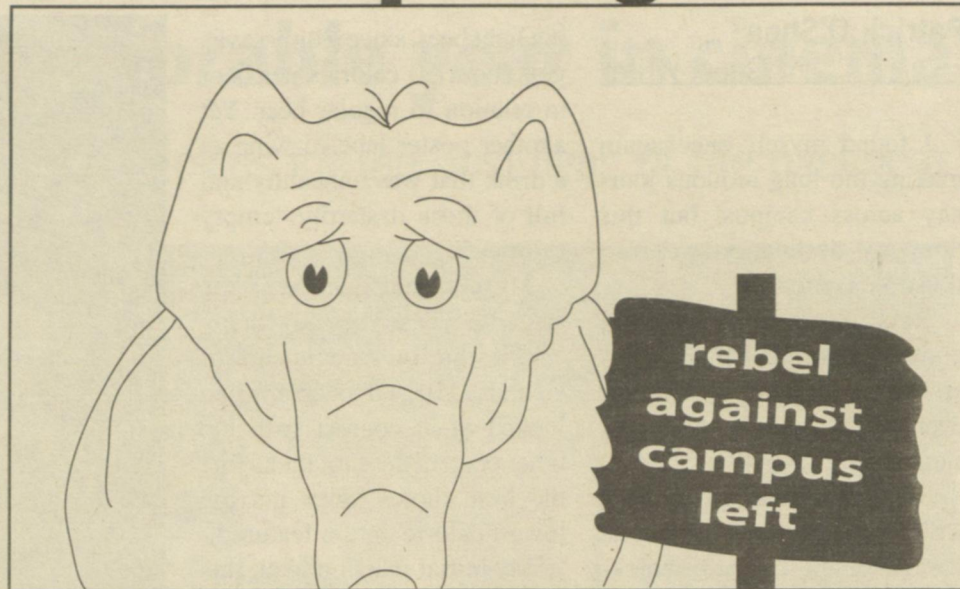
What bothers me most is the far left amongst students. I can just imagine them now - sitting in La Paloma, talking with friends, smiling, laughing and no doubt eating their "Olympian"

vegetarian sandwiches and tofu salads. I worry constantly that if this campus swings any more to the left then all the rich businessmen will stop sending their pretty daughters to USD, and we will lose our value-adding reputation of having beautiful people. Needless to say, I was more than excited to get on board and "rebel against the campus left."

So, last Wednesday I went to my first meeting of the USD College Republicans. They immediately started talking about preparations for an upcoming debate with the Young Democrats. "What can I do?" I wondered. Perhaps I could make some picket signs, bring gasoline so we could light pictures of Howard Dean and Bill Clinton on fire, maybe even stand by the fire alarm so that I could pull it in case the Young Democrats started winning the debate.

I learned quickly that my worst fears had come true. Rather than rallying together against the campus left, the group was leaning towards views. Then one person said the unthinkable — "George Bush is a bit crazy" (to quote it exactly). Did I hear correctly? George Bush - the brain trust of America, the backbone of our country, the great international diplomat, the messiah — is crazy? Unthinkable.

I thought the meeting would at least be governed by the rules written on the board by the College Republicans, rules like "piety over promiscuity" and "fear the devil." I personally fear the devil on a daily basis, and some-



GRAPHIC DESIGN BY ASHTON TESKE

times cannot get out of bed because of it. Yet, these rules were obviously not being followed properly if these people could demonize their moral compass, the great George W. Bush.

After attending the College Republicans meeting, I came to one devastating conclusion: Despite their beautiful ad campaign, I was alone in my rebellion against the campus left. The College Republicans had gone soft, and I was the only one who realized how much this campus has succumbed to the liberal epidemic endangering us all.

As a student in the political science department, believe me, the far left is everywhere. First of all, there are the professors. I have far too often seen them push their liberal agendas on the rest of us. In rare instances they have resorted to such despicable behavior as:

1) encouraging class discussion, and 2) reading books. I'll repeat that one - political science professors encourage their students to read books. I hope the dean reads this article and realizes the injustices that have been taking place here.

But you know what? It's not the professors that I'm most upset with. I can cut them some slack. Obviously many years of studying at reputable universities has warped their sense of reality.

Since education by reading books and engaging in class discussion is not enough to learn the issues and reduce the liberal hegemony on campus, something new must be done. Whoever was the genius behind the College Republican ad campaign should join me and really "rebel against the campus left." It's obviously necessary.

Christmas spirit lights up USD and San Diego community



SAFIYA GOVANI/THE VISTA

USD Law School decorates its building with wreaths and garlands providing campus with festive spirit.

Bridget Dixon

Guest Writer

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas ... Hold up, now just wait a minute. No, actually, it is most certainly not looking a thing like the kind of Christmas I am accustomed to experiencing.

As a native of a region of the United States where December actually means cold weather and below freezing temperatures, I find it incredibly challenging to really feel as though Santa's sleigh and Jesus in the manger are only days away.

Going home for Thanksgiving is a tease for me, as I get to break out the heavy jackets and scarves and leave the

flip-flops in my bag.

However, this is my senior year and I am now well aware of the state of Christmas season in San Diego. As the semester winds down, I've come to appreciate the little ways in which holiday cheer pops up.

Several San Diego traditions help me feel the spirit, including attending December Nights in Balboa Park, driving through Candy Cane Lane in La Mesa, and walking through the Hotel Del with its immense tree in the reception area and random carolers walking through the halls.

Of course, tuning into the constant Christmas music played by the local soft

rock station also helps to put me in the holiday mood.

In addition to the efforts made by the city, I've found that USD has also really been putting forth a great effort to make sure students know that Christmas is arriving, despite the sunshine and flip-flop weather.

For example, I always make a special trip through the foyer of the UC to take a big whiff of the evergreen smell emanating from the large Christmas tree.

Also, glancing into the Law School, I appreciate how they always tend to outdo the rest of the campus with their promptness on putting up the gorgeous wreaths, holly, and red bows.

RHA does its annual Winter Wonderland, where the hard working members truck in enough snow to cover a section of the lawn outside the UC so we can attempt to sled and pelt friends with snowballs before it all melts away.

Another definite not-to-miss event is the Christmas dinner in the cafeteria (occurring this year on the 14th). Cooked up by Chef Doug, Oscar and friends, the fine dining as well as the added special yuletide decorations make you feel a semblance of holiday home cookin'.

The newest addition to the University of San Diego's Christmas traditions began on Monday, with the first annual USD Festival of Lights. Sponsored by Associated Students and the Lambda Chi fraternity, the addition of millions of spirit-filled wattage that has been lit up around our campus is truly one of the greatest events that has occurred at USD since my arrival as a freshman.

I must commend the folks who are responsible for this dousing of the campus in Christmas cheer.

So, while San Diego doesn't have the typical winter chills and precipitation or the evergreen foliage one comes to expect at this time of year, the university is making great efforts to help students feel as though Santa actually knows when we are sleeping and when we are awake.

Whether it be with the boughs of holly, or the very fabulous Christmas lights around every palm tree and flowering shrub on Marion Way, I'm beginning to think it may look a bit more like Christmas this year.

Drinking campaign spouts hypocrisy

Patrick O'Shea

Guest Writer

I found myself once again making the long arduous journey across campus, but this time my destination was our illustrious cafeteria.

As I approached the UC I noticed the influx of new posters on the ground, giving me even more targets to purposely step on.

Suddenly, I was struck by a wonderful smell in the air, at first I thought it must be chicken tender night at the cafeteria, but something was different. Then it hit me; it was the sweet smell of hypocrisy.

As I waited for the cafeteria to open, I had ample time to peruse the new posters. The first one that caught my eye was a poster explaining the number of calories contained in a Casa Guadalajara margarita.

The poster was kind enough to explain that alcohol has seven calories per gram, can slow down your metabolism and is devoid of nutrients or vitamins, making alcohol "empty calories."

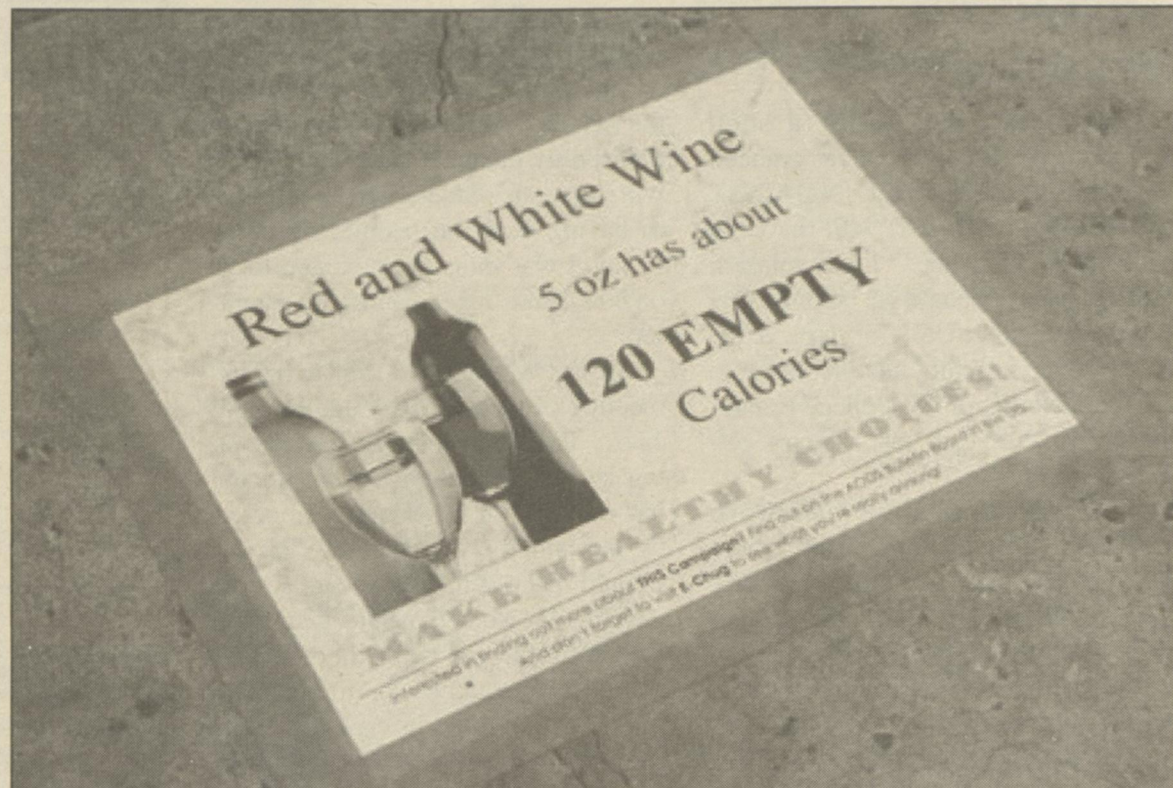
I quickly started to scan the other posters looking for gems like the last one, and I was not disappointed. Another poster described the futility of drink-

ing light beer, since it only saves you about 50 calories per beer in relation to regular beer. Yet another poster labeled wine as a drink that was unhealthy and full of those dastardly "empty calories."

My personal favorite is the poster that describes how many calories are in a single shot of alcohol, 110. Of course when looked at in context with the other posters the shot looks like the best choice since it's the lowest calorie option featured.

My initial reaction to all this information was, of course, positive. I am all for the importance of monitoring caloric intake, and I feel it is important for the student body to make sure they stay looking fit and healthy. There was something else bothering me; something inside me felt amiss, and I began to ponder.

The first question I posed to myself was, "Is this really the best campaign to use on this campus to limit drinking?" Out of all the problems that come from drinking alcohol (liver problems, alcoholism, alcohol poisoning, depression, drunk driving, getting in fights, waking up next to someone you don't recognize who you may or may not have done some pretty crazy things with, etc.)



SAFIYA GOVANI/THE VISTA

Flyer campaign across campus sends mixed messages to students about drinking.

the people running these fliers pick excessive calories.

After the last article I wrote I was kindly informed that this campus, along with many other campuses around the nation, suffers from a sort of epidemic of eating disorders.

I was scolded for my harsh words about the realities of overweight people in our society, and I was cautioned against writing material that could further the blight of girls with anorexia or bulimia.

Yet I found myself reading posters on the ground warning people about consuming alcohol, not because it is inherently a dangerous substance, but because it will make you fat.

The very same university who scolded me has approved a campaign of fear and guilt to stop people from drinking. Don't worry about body image or what you eat unless of course you like to consume alcohol; then you'd better not be taking in all those empty calories.

The irony of placing these posters in front of the cafeteria was not lost on me either.

The cafeteria, which serves incredibly unhealthy desserts at every meal with no mention of the caloric content, is the perfect spot for warning against consuming too many "empty calories."

So make sure you drop that light beer and pick up a chocolate brownie after dinner. Heck, make sure you get one after lunch too.



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Hey USD guys and girls! Looking for a fun and exciting internship or career? My name is Joe, you may know me as an intramural official, but now I work for the #1 college graduate recruiting company in the nation.

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I'll put in a good word for you! Joe

Classifieds

"Looking for a home in San Diego? We just put a Foreclosure Property in escrow with a USD Alum under \$200,000 near USD! Your campus rent is higher than many mortgages!"

- Seth O'Byrne, USD ALUM and RE/MAX Realtor (858) 869-3940"

"Pilates Mat Classes in Pacific Beach. First Class FREE! All levels welcome. Call Claire at 760-402-8225 or visit www.rootsofmovement.org for schedule and location."

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WANTED: Office Space to rent near USD starting in JANUARY for two USD faculty (therapist and attorney). Need one or two offices. Contact Dr. Patterson at 619 260 2273.

USD Night @ Club Montage

\$5 wristband includes cover, specials, and transportation from South MB overnight lot to club (9:30pm to 2:30am). DJ from Z90.3 spinnin ghetto beats all night.

The Vista's commitment to accuracy

See a mistake in this issue? Send corrections and clarifications to:

Managing Editor Vanessa Guzmán

by e-mail:

vguzman@usdvista.com or call our editorial line:

(619) 260-4584

This week's corrections: Page 15, fliers is supposed to be fliers'

Filmmakers make 2006 a memorable year in cinema

Before the Golden Globes or the Oscars, we present our choices for the best films of the past year

Sam Woolley

Staff Writer

1. "Little Miss Sunshine"

Directed by Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris, "Little Miss Sunshine" is easily the best indie comedy of the year, combining an excellent cast with an equally excellent script. The film is spot on in its presentations of family quirkiness and individual failure. Both Greg Kinnear and Paul Dano act in this movie and "Fast Food Nation," and with great results. Abigail Breslin plays a surprisingly thoughtful lead for such a young actress.

2. "Fast Food Nation"

Directed by Richard Linklater, this film does a superb job unveiling the health, environmental and social risks involved with the fast-food industry in America. Linklater's film rendition of Eric Schlosser's book is superbly done, maybe because he teamed up with Schlosser to produce the screenplay. The cast is stacked with A-list actors, but the roles these actors play are generally break-out ones.

3. "Thank you For Smoking"

Directed by Jason Reitman, here's another movie addressing an infamous American institution: the tobacco industry. "TYFS," however, uses a more comedic and satirical approach to the issues than "Fast Food Nation." The best thing about this film is its merciless attack of people on every side of the tobacco debate; no one is safe here. Lead actor Aaron Eckhart is witty and hilarious.

4. "An Inconvenient Truth"

You are probably starting to notice a trend here. Directed by David Guggenheim, this is another powerful movie focusing on environmental and health issues. An excellent film on the science of Global Warming, as presented through the life of the inspirational Al Gore, "An Inconvenient Truth" is fantastically inspirational and staggering. Nay sayers will have a hard time denying the existence of global warming now, as this film proves ignorance may be the only defense for doing so.

5. "Running With Scissors"

Augustine Burroughs' comically bizarre memoir with the same title was enthralling, and the film version, directed by Ryan Murphy, is nothing less. Eccentric and thoughtful, "Running with Scissors" is another movie about families with insane (this time quite literally) issues. Joseph Cross does a solid job portraying Burroughs, and Brian Cox is his ridiculously hilarious self in his role as Dr. Finch. Gwyneth Paltrow and Annette Bening have strong performances as well.

6. "A Prairie Home Companion"

This film adaptation of Midwest son Garrison Keillor's radio variety-show is yet another seamlessly genius work from the late Robert Altman. Altman and Keillor do a fantastic job presenting the show (which you can listen to Sundays on NPR) through film. The cast is stacked with excellent actors including Lily Tomlin,



WWW.CINEMPIRE.COM

Indie comedy "Little Miss Sunshine," starring Greg Kinnear, is one of the best movies to come to theatres in 2006.

Woody Harrelson, Kevin Kline, Meryl Streep, and Keillor himself. Keillor says of the Midwest, "it could be worse, and we're waiting for it to get worse."

7. "The History Boys"

Another film adaptation, directed by Nicholas Hymer, this time of a ultra-successful play. The best and rarest thing about "The History Boys" is its dedication to staying true to the original play. The film is directed by the same director, written by the same author and has many of the same actors. An excellent and funny display of English grammar-school life.

8. "Brick"

Rian Johnson's "Brick" is not only an excellent detective story, but a great presentation of high school life as well. Johnson wrote the script for the film right after graduating from USC, showing amazing talent. Interestingly enough, the film is set just up the road in San Clemente.

9. "The Science of Sleep"

Fans of Gael García Bernal (Motorcycle Diaries and Amores Perros) will not be disappointed by "SOS," Michel Gondry's latest film. Bernal finds himself in a role somewhat out of character but with good results nonetheless. This isn't the kind of movie to watch if you don't want to think; there is a lot to be deciphered here. The film is an excellent exploration into the subconscious.

10. "Casino Royale"

Though it may be a big budget blockbuster, "Casino Royale," had great success with a new actor portraying Bond (Daniel Craig). Craig plays Bond in a way very reminiscent of Sean Connery and with more of a tough approach than his reserved predecessor Pierce Brosnan. A great, engaging remake of an old Bond flick. If you like Craig in this, check him out in "Layer Cake" (which is similar to "Snatch").

Andrew Marzoni

Arts & Culture Editor

1. "Brick"

Writer and director Rian Johnson effectively creates a contemporary film noir, setting "Brick" in an Orange County high school. He wrote the screenplay in ultra-modern slang that, while sometimes hard to follow, infuses the film with insightful vigor. Debut or not, Johnson has created an uncompromisingly amazing film.

2. "Volver"

Pedro Almodóvar, director of "Talk to Her" and "Bad Education," is known for his dark, disturbing plot twists. Though "Volver" contains the same malignity of subject matter, the relationships Almodóvar creates and the way in which his characters are portrayed (especially by phenom Penelope Cruz) ultimately renders the film heartwarming.

3. "Clean"

Maggie Cheung and Nick Nolte give stunning performances in French director Olivier Assayas' story of a female rock-and-roll musician struggling to rid herself from heroin addiction and regain custody of her young son. Beautiful cinematography and guest musical performances from the likes of Metric and Tricky make this globe-trotting storyline unique and memorable.

4. "The Departed"

Cinema deity Martin Scorsese returned to theatres this year with "The Departed," his first true gangster film (the genre that made him famous) since 1995's "Casino." This time he's put Italian-exploitation aside, preferring to explore Boston's Irish mobs. With an all-star cast including Jack Nicholson, Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Mark Wahlberg and Alec Baldwin,

Scorsese presents the well-acted, beautifully shot and truthfully written film that is now expected of him.

5. "Little Miss Sunshine"

This hilarious, sometimes dark ensemble comedy follows a New Mexico family as they drive to California for a beauty contest. Steve Carrel's portrayal of a suicidal Proust scholar has ended up being one of the most memorable roles of the year.

6. "Scoop"

Woody Allen's latest murder mystery is his second collaboration with starlet Scarlett Johansson in as many years. Johansson stars as an American student journalist in London hell-bent on cracking the case of the "Tarot Card Killer." Johansson and Allen, who costars as her unlikely magician sidekick, have amazing chemistry as two neurotic Americans across the pond.

7. "A Scanner Darkly"

Richard Linklater returns to the animation used previously in "A Waking Life," adapting "A Scanner Darkly" from the 1970s apocalyptic thriller novel of the same name. The film includes a stunning performance (maybe the only one on record) from Keanu Reeves.

8. "The King"

Gael García Bernal stars as Elvis, a young man who searches for a father he never knew (William Hurt), who turns out to be an Evangelical pastor in Texas. James Marsh's direction helps the film explore hypocrisy in Bible-belt America.

9. "Factotum"

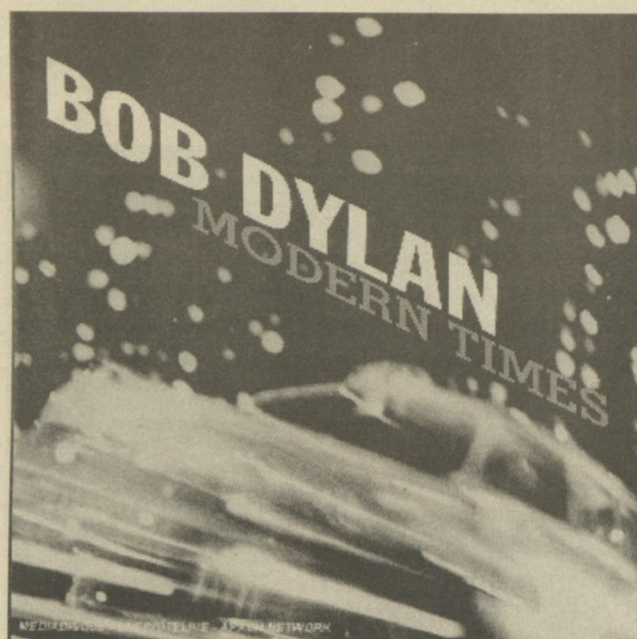
Bent Hamer's adaptation of Charles Bukowski's eponymous novel stars Matt Dillon, who portrays the tough guy poet with inspired fidelity.

10. "Free Zone"

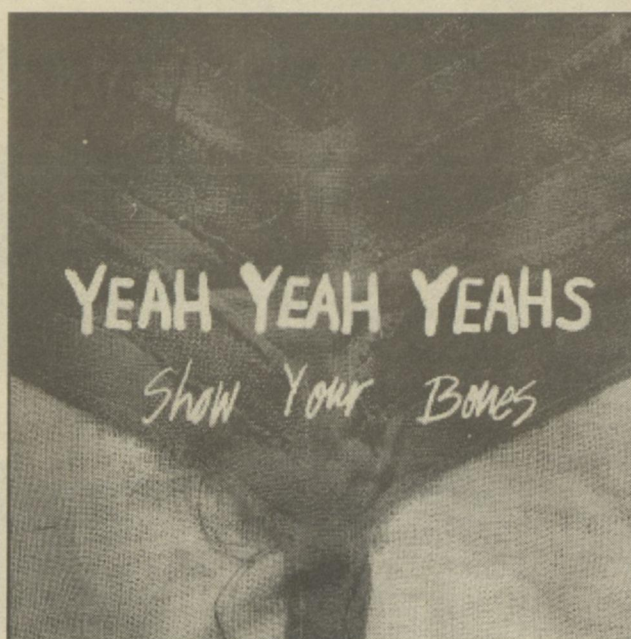
This insightful commentary on Israeli-Palestinian relations is directed by Amos Gitai and stars Natalie Portman as an alienated American in the Holy Land.

2006 was a great year in music for artists young and old

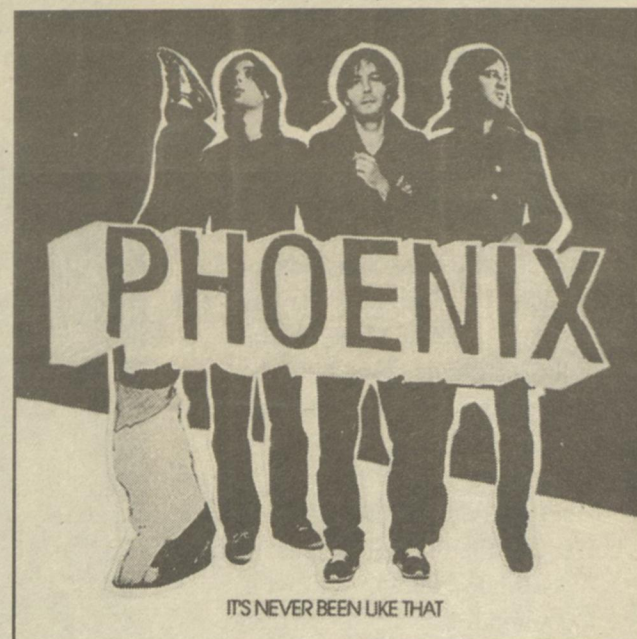
This is where we tell you which albums released in the last year should be on your iPod



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Sam Woolley

Staff Writer

"Modern Times" Bob Dylan

The record that proved Dylan still has it (what-ever "it" may be) at 65 seems a shoo-in for 2006's top CD. Dylan has put out 44 records to date, and "Modern Times" is one of the most successful of this legendary career (his first number one since 1976). "Modern Times" captures the true grit of American spirit along the same vein of "The Times They Are a-Changin'," though slightly more bluesy.

The rest of the Top 10

2. "Return to Cookie Mountain"
TV on the Radio
3. "The Life Pursuit"
Belle and Sebastian
4. "To Find Me Gone"
Vetiver
5. "Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not"
The Arctic Monkeys
6. "I'm Not Afraid of You and I Will Beat Your A**"
Yo La Tengo
7. "The Crane Wife"
The Decemberists
8. "The Greatest"
Cat Power
9. "Show Your Bones"
Yeah Yeah Yeahs
10. "Broken Boy Soldiers"
The Raconteurs

Christie Osborne

Staff Writer

"Show Your Bones" Yeah Yeah Yeahs

This sophomore follow-up to 2003's "Fever To Tell" has the New York trio return from various side projects to take the garage rock scene by storm. Musicianship is vastly improved, production is tighter, and Karen O shows vocal control that was previously absent, making her mic in the mouth screams less primal and all the more potent.

The rest of the Top 10

2. "The Crane Wife"
The Decemberists
3. "Lupe Fiasco's Food & Liquor"
Lupe Fiasco
4. "The Eraser"
Thom Yorke
5. "Broken Boy Soldiers"
The Raconteurs
6. "St. Elsewhere"
Gnarls Barkley
7. "With Love and Squalor"
We Are Scientists
8. "Timeless"
Sergio Mendes
9. "Young Machetes"
Blood Brothers
10. "Let's Get Out of this Country"
Camera Obscura

Andrew Marzoni

Arts & Culture Editor

"It's Never Been Like That" Phoenix

Phoenix's third studio album shows the French foursome shying away from the kitschy synth-driven dance tunes like those of 2000's "United" or 2003's "Alphabetical." While songs such as "Napoleon Says" and "Sometimes in the Fall" have a grittier, garage rock sound, "One Time Too Many" and "Consolation Prizes" prove Phoenix has not lost its talent for writing melody.

The rest of the Top 10

2. "The Eraser"
Thom Yorke
3. "Boys and Girls in America"
The Hold Steady
4. "Rabbit Fur Coat"
Jenny Lewis & the Watson Twins
5. "The Crane Wife"
The Decemberists
6. "Orphans: Brawlers, Bawlers & Bastards"
Tom Waits
7. "She Wants Revenge"
She Wants Revenge
8. "Pieces of the People We Love"
The Rapture
9. "Get Lonely"
The Mountain Goats
10. "First Impressions of Earth"
The Strokes

Local San Diego bands to keep an eye out for next year

The Shys

This group of mostly San Clemente locals has blasted onto the scene lately with comparisons (from the likes of Rolling Stone, among others) to early stuff from The Who, Bowie, T-Rex, and the Clash. Their album "Astoria", released in July of 2006, has drawn much fuss and had songs featured on HBO's "Entourage." They were Spin magazine's artist of the day (July 17, 2006) and they were featured on MTV's "The Freshman" with their song "Call in the Cavalry."

The Prayers

Members of the late SD punk band The Plot to Blow Up the Eiffel Tower didn't move far; two of them picked up guitars with new indie pop outfit, The Prayers. Where The Plot may have been an assault on the eardrums, the Prayers mellow out with rolling melodies that fit right in here in sunny San Diego, and songs like "USA" sound like the post-adolescent spawn of surf rock. The band gets a bit more rootsy with standard rock "Lady Sylvia." Look for their upcoming EP, entitled "God Save the Prayers," out soon.

Get Back Loretta

This rock band draws influence from the greats of the '60s and '70s, not only in their name but their sound as well. Their debut album, "Over the Wall," was received this fall by major label flirtations and a huge local buzz. Kevin Martin's vocals and piano lead the band through fresh originals that simultaneously bring to mind The Beatles and Led Zeppelin. Get Back Loretta has played everywhere in San Diego, from Lestat's to The Casbah and is currently preparing for a West Coast tour.

New and already established musical acts show great promise for next year

Andrew Marzoni

Arts & Culture Editor

Christie Osborne

Staff Writer

Sam Woolley

Staff Writer

The Shins

Their third full-length album, "Winning the Night Away" is being released by Sub Pop Records on January 23 (despite many other dates out there, this one is official). This is certainly one to look out for as it has been deemed "the most anticipated album of the year" by the likes of Under the Radar, Stomp and USA Today. If you've heard the recently leaked album (which may or may not be rough edits), then you know that the band has certainly taken a new and interesting direction with their music. If they were haphazard children when they wrote "Oh, Inverted World" and introspective teens during "Chutes Too Narrow," then they are undoubtedly full fledged adults with "Winning the Night Away."

Modest Mouse

You probably became acquainted with this band because of the song "Float On" from their album "Good News for People Who Love Bad News." You should know, however, that this was their fourth full-length LP. The band will release their fifth highly anticipated album, "We Were Dead Before the Ship Even Sank," in early 2007. The question on everyone's mind is whether they will continue along the mainstream or whether Isaac Brock's indefinable old-self will reemerge. Johnny Marr (the mastermind behind The Smiths) is now officially playing guitar, singing and co-writing with



WWW.TAGTEAMMEDIA.COM

Expect Brooklyn's Matt & Kim to gather a huge following with their debut album.

Brock, which should make for some truly amazing twists.

Bloc Party

These Brit dance-rockers took the indie-world by storm in 2005 with their fantastic debut, "Silent Alarm." They look to eclipse their blogger-fave status with sophomore effort "A Weekend in the City." The whole album is definitely a development over their first album and should be darn good live, but won't necessarily shatter perspectives like the first album did, but then again, they can only reinvent dance music every so often. The first single, "Prayer," opens with monkish chants reminiscent of TV On the Radio, but soon ascends to lyric and musical heights that only BP can reach.

The Photo Atlas

Emerging from the tiny Denver indie scene that produced Devotchka and the Fray come the latest Mile High rockers,

The Photo Atlas. Formerly Atlas, the band has played at SXSW, peaked at number 36 on CMJ's top 200, and opened for most independent acts sweeping through Denver. The biggest break came this summer, however, when a subsidiary of Island Records jumped on board with Morning After Records to distribute TPA's album "No, Not Me, Ever." The band blends garage rock jamming guitars with melodic Ted Leo-esque solos and fervent drumming, all topped with shrill vocals a la Cursive and At the Drive In.

Matt & Kim

This Brooklyn boy/girl duo has become a favorite of bloggers and music critics alike with its self-titled debut, released this October. Their synth-fueled pop has a punk sneer that is likely to take hold of American hipsterdom next year. Be sure to catch them on their winter tour.

Mark Strand reads in the IPJ

Cory Miller

Staff Writer

One might not want to take any love advice from former US Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner Mark Strand.

"Most of my love poems are about the ones that got away," Strand said on Friday night at the Peace and Justice Theatre.

Strand mainly read poems from his eleventh and most recent book of poetry, "Man and Camel," which touched on loss and beauty in life. He read to an audience composed of USD students, some faculty and friends of the USD community.

Strand was the last poet featured in the three part series that made up The Lindsay Cropper Writing Series. Strand, who encouraged latecomers to take a seat, created a comfortable and easy-going atmosphere in the small and intimate theater.

When asked why he named a certain poem "The Poem," Strand simply replied, "Well, it was a strange poem, and I didn't know what to call it, so I thought I'd call it The Poem." The audience, which nearly filled the theater, enjoyed Strand's honest and humorous answers and seemed to approve of Strand by asking many questions at the end of the reading. During the question and answer Strand commented on his approach to poetry.

"When I am writing, people might be thinking that I have something else in mind, but I am just writing what comes to mind."

Strand talked about how he changed careers from abstract painting to poetry at age 24. He began writing poetry even though, "I wrote terrible poems in high school and was not a reader in my late teens. I always thought I'd be a painter."

Although Strand joked about success in his love life, he clearly is an example of the fact that it is possible to find success in whatever area one is passionate about.

Editor's Picks Event Calendar Dec. - Jan.

Thursday, December 7

"S.A.M. I AM"
opens @
Camino Hall 131
7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 8

Matt & Kim @
The Che Café
UCSD
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, California 92037

Saturday, December 9

Modest Mouse,
The Shins @
RIMAC Arena
UCSD
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, California 92037

Monday, December 11

"Imagination Released"
opens @
Sacred Heart Gallery
9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Friday, December 15

"The History Boys"
opens @
Landmark Hillcrest Cinemas
3965 5th Avenue
San Diego, California 92103

Tuesday, January 2

My Morning Jacket @
House of Blues
1055 5th Avenue
San Diego, California 92101

Sunday, January 7

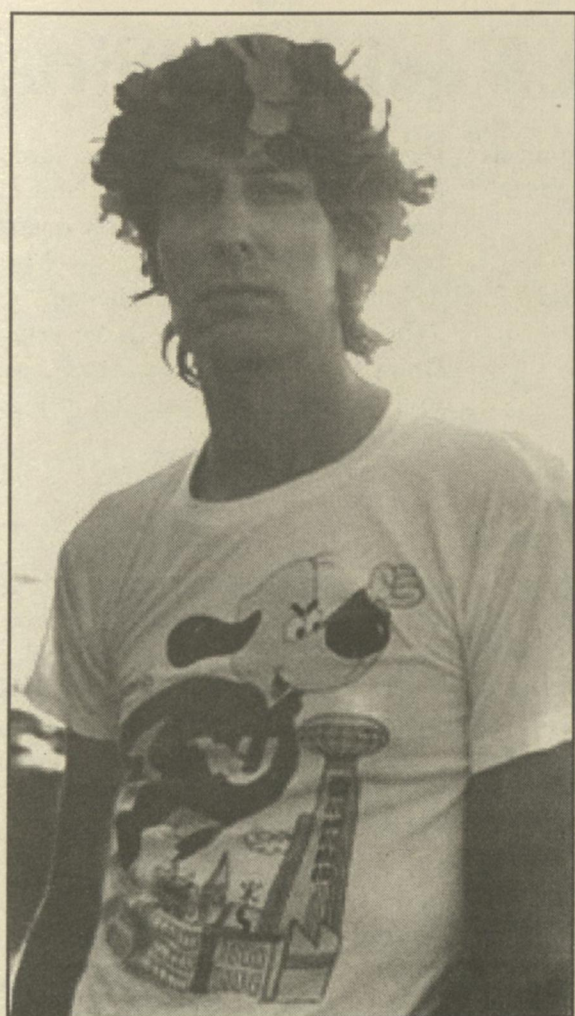
Stephen Malkmus @
The Casbah
2501 Kettner Boulevard
San Diego, California 92101

Monday, January 8

Justin Timberlake @
ipayOne Center
3500 Sports Arena Boulevard
San Diego, California 92110

Friday, January 12

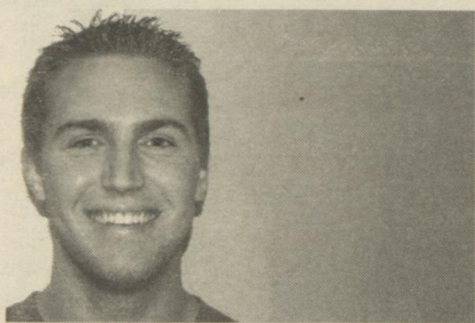
Albert Hammond, Jr. @
Soma
3350 Sports Arena Boulevard
San Diego, California 92110



WWW.CONTACTMUSIC.COM

Stephen Malkmus, formerly of Pavement, and his band, The Jicks, come to The Casbah this Jan.

Mike and me



Anthony Gentile

Sports Editor

This is my first semester writing a column, and I have not yet shared any of my personal life. That is why in this issue, last of the semester, I feel compelled to reveal that, on Sunday night, my heart was broken by another man.

This man's name is Mike. Prior to September, I trusted Mike and the decisions he made in spite of his stubbornness.

Mike's actions over the past four months have significantly lessened my loyalty to him and have made me doubt his abilities. I feel that Mike thinks he is better than he is.

Much of his questionable actions involve his relationship with another man.

That man's name is Jake. While Jake is a flaky individual, he works very hard only to end up mediocre.

Sometimes, Jake works too hard. He tries to do things that he simply cannot and hurts those around him with his actions. But none of this is Jake's fault.

I knew that there would be conflict down the road between Mike and Jake. They were just so unhappy together.

Their tenuous relationship was further strained when Mike began a relationship with a man younger and more eager than Jake five months ago. Mike's relationship with this man has put immense amounts of pressure on Jake.

This man's name is Jay. While Jay has made his mistakes, including a few crippling ones Sunday night, I don't fault him.

I fault Mike. In the middle of a rough patch, Mike simply dumped Jake and turned to Jay for support. However, Jay is just too young and too inexperienced to be in this relationship.

Mike hurt more than just Jake. He undermined an entire group seemingly destined for another successful year.

In doing so, he hurt me, a strong supporter of that group. Mike crushed me.

Denver Broncos head coach Mike Shanahan made a huge mistake when he benched veteran quarterback Jake Plummer in favor of rookie Jay Cutler prior to week 13. It showed against the Seahawks Sunday night in an agonizing loss.

But I will still go Sunday when Mike comes down to Qualcomm Stadium even though I don't know how I'll feel when I see him in person for the first time in a year.

I will support Denver as I always have. But just because I like the Broncos does not mean that I have to like him.

Men's basketball wins second straight

Anthony Gentile

Sports Editor

Sometimes a loss is better than a win. The University of San Diego men's basketball team is finding that out.

Since their three-point loss at San Diego State Nov. 29, the Toreros have won two straight games. Tuesday night, USD made Cal State Bakersfield their most recent victim, defeating the Roadrunners 92-72.

"You can see that our confidence is building," head coach Brad Holland said. "We're putting the ball in the basket now and that's helping our defense. A lot of positive things are going on."

The Toreros seemed to enjoy the up-tempo pace of the first half. USD shot 56 percent from the field in the opening 20 minutes en route to a 50-32 halftime lead.

"They like to play fast," Holland said, "and with B.J. out there and Daniel Fleming running the middle of the floor, when we're rebounding we can play at a fairly quick pace."

USD's big men played a large role in the opening half, led by forward Gyno Pomare. The sophomore had 13 points and 10 rebounds before the break.

Pomare finished the game with a team-high 17 points and 13 rebounds. His frontcourt counterpart, senior forward Theo White also had a double-double, with 11 points and 10 boards. The Toreros outrebounded the Roadrunners 40-26.

It was much of the same in the second half, as 63 percent shooting helped the Toreros improve to 4-4. A long-range shot from senior guard Kyle Price with three seconds to play put the finishing touches on a win in which USD recorded their biggest point total of the season.

The Toreros won by 20 points despite missing two key players: senior forward Nir Cohen and sophomore forward Ray Murdock. Cohen is still out with a broken finger, while Murdock served a one-game suspension for violating team rules.

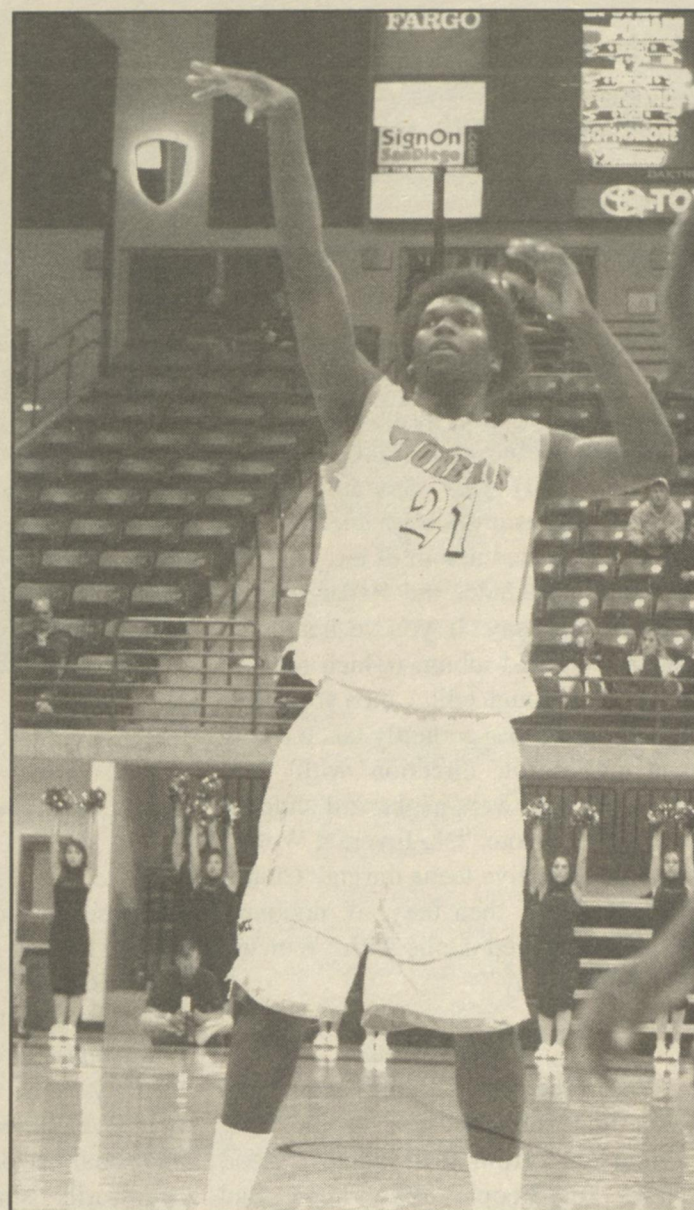
Sophomore forward Daniel Fleming had the hot hand all night. The junior college transfer had 16 points, shooting 6-for-6 from the field and making four three-pointers.

"Daniel's a quality three-point shooter ... He had shown it in practice, but he hadn't transferred that over to the games," Holland said. "Of course, he did tonight."

Tuesday's win came three days after the Toreros beat Central Michigan 67-66. The one-point win marked USD's first road victory of the season.

Pomare led the Toreros, scoring 15 points as they came back from 12 points down in the second half to edge the Chippewas. Three other players scored in double figures, including sophomore guard Brandon Johnson, who finished with 13 points.

The Toreros head up to Berkeley this



ADENA JANSEN/THE VISTA

Sophomore forward Gyno Pomare led the Toreros in Monday's win against Cal State Bakersfield. Off the bench, Pomare had 17 points and 13 rebounds.

weekend to play in the Golden Bear Classic. USD plays Eastern Michigan at Haas Pavilion on Friday at 5 p.m. and will face either California or Chicago State on Saturday.

"It's going to be a fun little tournament," Pomare said. "We're playing even tougher teams. We got to bring it,

Bowl Championship Series: A quick handicap

Rose Bowl (Jan. 1)

#3 Michigan (11-1) vs.

#5 USC (10-2)

Going into last weekend, it looked like it would be one of these two playing Ohio State, but nonetheless, this should make for a great Rose Bowl. Who will be able to overcome their late season disappointment and salvage it with a bowl win?

Who to watch: Michigan's Mario Manningham and USC's Dwayne Jarrett, two of the nation's best receivers, will be on display in Pasadena.

Peter's Pick: USC 34, Michigan 27

Anthony's Pick: Michigan 27, USC 21

Fiesta Bowl (Jan. 1)

#8 Boise State (12-0) vs.

#10 Oklahoma (11-2)

Boise State is undefeated, but they haven't rolled with the big boys yet this season. Oklahoma has been the most resilient team in the nation, turning in a great season despite losing Rhett Bomar and Adrian Peterson during the season.

Can the Broncos prove they belong?

Who to Watch: Oklahoma running

back Allen Patrick has filled in nicely for Peterson, rushing for 700 yards this season.

Peter: Oklahoma 28, Boise State 7

Anthony: Oklahoma 24, Boise State 7

FedEx Orange Bowl (Jan. 2)

#6 Louisville (11-1) vs.

#14 Wake Forest (11-2)

In what sounds more like a Final Four matchup than a BCS bowl game, these two upstart football programs look to prove that they belong with the big boys. The irresistible force will meet the immovable object when Louisville's high-powered offense goes up against Wake's stingy defense.

Who to watch: Louisville quarterback Brian Brohm has quietly put up huge numbers the last two seasons. Will this be his national coming out party?

Peter: Louisville 33, Wake Forest 21

Anthony: Louisville 38, Wake Forest 21

Sugar Bowl (Jan. 3)

#4 Louisiana State (10-2) vs.

#11 Notre Dame (10-2)

LSU will have the home-field advan-

tage when these two-loss teams clash in the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans. Both teams have veteran quarterbacks and high-scoring offenses. Whose defense will rise to the challenge?

Who to watch: Notre Dame seniors Brady Quinn and Jeff Samardzija look to make a lasting impression in Fighting Irish lore.

Peter: Notre Dame 24, LSU 21

Anthony: LSU 17, Notre Dame 14

BCS Championship Game (Jan. 8)

#1 Ohio State (12-0) vs.

#2 Florida (12-1)

Ohio State looks to cap off a perfect season with the national championship. Meanwhile, Florida survived the SEC and rose to the top under second-year coach Urban Meyer. Whose playmakers will show up in the national title game?

Who to watch: Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith should have the Heisman Trophy in hand by Jan. 8 and the senior will be looking to go out on top.

Peter: Ohio State 31, Florida 17

Anthony: Florida 38, Ohio State 35

SWEET 16: Volleyball faces Cornhuskers for second time

Sweet 16, continued

Senior middle hitter Christie Dawson said that prior tournament experience helped the team.

"I think that helped calm our nerves," Dawson said.

In order to start post-season journey, the Toreros had to make a 2200-mile trip to Knoxville, Tenn. Head coach Brent Hilliard said the trip was beneficial to the team.

"We definitely had not as many distractions," Hilliard said. "Most people were there by themselves, just there to focus on the team."

USD had no trouble in the first round Friday as they swept Jacksonville State. The Toreros hit an incredible .630 in game three to put the Gamecocks (24-5) away.

Senior middle hitter Christie Dawson and junior middle hitter Laurel Abrahamson led the Toreros with 13 kills apiece. Sophomore setter Jessica Nyrop had 40 assists to direct a Toreros' attack that hit .364 for the match.

"We knew that we were going to beat them, but we made sure that we were really prepared," Carlson said. "We watched a lot of video on them and we knew exactly what they were going to do."

The following day, the Toreros took on Duke in the second round.

After falling to the Blue Devils 30-27 in the first game,

USD took the next two games. In game three, the Toreros hit .412 and ripped Duke 30-17 to take a one-game lead in the tight match.

"A bad play goes worse and a bad stretch gets worse," Hilliard said. "That's what happened to Duke [in game three]."

But Duke responded by winning game four 30-27. Tied at two games apiece, both the Blue Devils and the Toreros were one game away from advancing.

USD jumped out to a quick 8-3 lead in game five, but Duke rallied and cut the lead to 13-11. Two kills by Dawson secured the match for the Toreros.

"We were determined," Dawson said. "There was no doubt in my mind, and I'm sure the whole team's mind, that we were going to lose; that our season was going to end. It just wasn't going to happen."

Carlson recorded her 23rd double-double of the year in the second round win. She had 27 kills and 17 digs. Three other Toreros had double-digit kills, including freshman middle hitter Amy DeGroot, who had 13.

For the second straight match, freshman libero Andrea Csaszsi led the team in digs. Csaszsi had 19 against the Blue Devils after recording 12 against Jacksonville State. The true freshman has been terrific

all season.

"She's just been phenomenal this year," Carlson said. "She's really changed our game around for us; she's helped us a lot."

One of 16 teams left, the Toreros now travel to Gainesville, Fla. for the regionals. Dawson said that the team's second trip East in a week can only help.

"We proved to ourselves and speculators that we can travel," Dawson said. "So I think that's good for us going into Florida, as opposed to some of the teams that hosted."

USD plays top-seeded Nebraska in the regional semifinals Friday at 1:30 p.m. This is the Toreros' second match against the Cornhuskers this season; on Aug. 29 USD was swept by Nebraska in Lincoln.

Hilliard said not to use that match as an indicator for Friday.

"Basically I can scrap that match," Hilliard said. "The lineup was completely different; we were still feeling our way into the season."

Carlson looks forward to the rematch.

"It's going to be hard — they're number one," Carlson said. "It's going to be good though because we're on a neutral court, we've played them before and we have a totally different lineup than what they've seen from us."



COURTESY OF BROCK SCOTT/USD ATHLETICS

Senior outside hitter Kristen Carlson recorded her 23rd double-double of the season in the Toreros second round win over Duke. With the win, USD advanced to their second Sweet 16 in three years.

Should they win, the Toreros will meet the winner of Friday's other regional semifinal between eighth-seeded Minnesota (25-7) and ninth-seeded host Florida (30-2). The regional final will take place Saturday at 1 p.m. with

a berth in the Final Four on the line.

Dawson knows what it will take to win this weekend.

"I think it will take confidence and preparation and just playing our hearts out," Dawson said.

Hooligan style fans renew sense of rivalry

Stephen Britt

Staff Writer

Walking towards the Cox Arena last Wednesday in my USD sweatshirt, a large looking State student walked up to me and asked "Are you guys ready to get beat down?"

Being the 16-point underdogs and played down in the media, my response was a weak "Yeah...probably." What ensued once the game started and the teams fought it out on the floor was anything but a beat down.

As the lead yo-yoed down below on the court, cheers came from the USD student section that was packed with a healthy amount of students, alumni, professors and even head football coach Jim Harbaugh. A certain sense of animosity broke out in the crowd and the chants between the SDSU student section which was immediately next to the USD section started coming out.

Holding only a one-point lead at halftime, the poorly educated State students started a "Scoreboard" chant; a chant usually reserved only for large leads at the end of games. As a majority of the USD section replied to this only with laughs, the gate was open and the USD student section held nothing back with insults, vulgarities and SDSU bashing.

One good way to gauge a rivalry is whether you feel uncomfortable leaving your student section to go to the bathroom or to leave the game because of the fear that those you had just yelled obscenities at might follow you there.

This was one of those games. Leaving the student section to go to the vendors wearing my "Beat State" shirt, I was greeted by angry stares, taunting and insults hurled in my direction.

Apparently SDSU fans do not like being reminded that they

"One good way to gauge a rivalry is whether you feel uncomfortable leaving your student section to go to the bathroom or to leave the game because of the fear that those you had just yelled obscenities at might follow you there."

Stephen Britt

go to a "safety school" one bit.

As the game began to wind down and the SDSU lead narrowed from nine to three points, a sense of energy could be felt not only between the teams on the court but in the opposing sections in the crowd. It was somewhere between the "Let's play football!" and the "Bag our groceries!" chants from the USD student section when things turned downright ugly.

It had become obvious to everyone in the crowd that the State students were at their proudest moment — beating their crosstown rivals — and did not appreciate us shooting them down.

At one point while a USD student was dancing on a chair during a timeout break, a San Diego State student quickly jumped into the Torero fan section with intent to hurt him. Fortunately, surrounded by his

adversaries, the Aztec fan was forced back out after a brief rant chock full of insults.

At the end of the game, a half court shot by freshman forward Chris Lewis narrowly missed, plunking the rim and bouncing out was all that kept the Toreros from a chance at overtime.

Despite the painfully close 79-76 loss, the Toreros' men's basketball team put up a great fight, a fact that seemed to be overlooked by Aztecs fans as they taunted USD fans relentlessly on the way out of the stadium.

Regardless of some of the ugliness that came from both sides of the student section, in the end there was a feeling that the crosstown rivalry between our schools was better established.

On this night, passion burned in the hearts of students and school spirit rained down from the crowd. Despite the loss it provided, it was truly a glorious night to be a Torero.

Toreros capture Gridiron Classic 27-7

Football earns second consecutive I-AA mid-major national championship

Peter Byrne

Staff Writer

In the inaugural Gridiron Classic, No. 1 mid-major University of San Diego football (11-1) defeated the No. 2 Monmouth Hawks (10-2) by a score of 27-7 to claim their second straight I-AA mid-major National Championship.

The Toreros found themselves in unfamiliar territory entering the game, coming off their first loss in 19 games, a 37-27 defeat to UC Davis. But the Toreros weren't discouraged by the close loss to the Aggies, a scholarship program.

"We got over the loss quickly," junior quarterback Josh Johnson said. "It was sour because I felt we should have beaten them, but it was sort of a moral victory because now we know we can play with those type of teams."

Entering the Gridiron Classic, Monmouth boasted the top-ranked scoring defense among mid-major schools. But it was USD's defense that stepped up Saturday. Sophomore cornerback Ben Hannula, who played wide receiver for most of the season, led the defensive effort.

His first quarter 37-yard interception return for a touchdown gave the Toreros a 7-0 lead.

Junior defensive end Eric Bakhtiari also made a huge defensive contribution for the Toreros, recording nine total tackles, including three sacks.

On offense, Johnson led the Toreros, whose 180 yards passing and 104 yards on the ground earned him the game's MVP honors. Sophomore running back J.T. Rogan also contributed with two touchdown runs.

Johnson's passing statistics weren't at their normally spectacular level, due in part to stiff winds that altered some passes. The New Jersey winds were so strong that Torero receivers informed Johnson during the game that the ball was changing directions after leaving his hand.

Another contributing factor was Monmouth's defense, which specifically schemed to stop the Toreros' aerial attack. Fortunately for the Toreros, Johnson is just as effective on the ground as through the air.

"They dropped everyone back and had perfect pass coverage on most plays," Johnson said. "But they didn't have an

answer for my running."

In the end, the Toreros were just too much for the second-ranked Hawks, as they have been for most of their opponents this season. After finishing the best season in school history, the Toreros will accept the Sports Network Cup in Chattanooga, Tenn. on Dec. 14.

"To repeat as champions is hard," Johnson said. "It really shows how special our program is."

On Monday, six Toreros were named to the I-AA mid-major all-America Team. On offense, Johnson led the group that also included junior wide receiver Wes Doyle, and junior offensive linemen Gabe DeAnda and Jordan Paopao. Defensively, Bakhtiari was honored along with senior defensive back Josh Briscoe.

The USD football program is shifting its focus to next year after the playoff selection committee overlooked the Toreros this year.

"Our goal is to get to the playoffs," Johnson said. "I've talked to our athletic director and I think we're going to schedule some tougher teams next season."



COURTESY OF USD ATHLETICS

Sophomore Ben Hannula, the Toreros' leading receiver this season, starred on the other side of the ball in the Gridiron Classic. Hannula intercepted two passes in USD's 27-7 win over Monmouth.

TOREROS WEEK IN REVIEW

Anthony Gentile

Sports Editor

Women's basketball loses first game of season

After a program best 6-0 start, the University of San Diego women's basketball team fell for the first time this season. The Toreros could not get their offense going Sunday in a 47-29 loss at Boise State.

USD shot a season-low 18 percent from the field (9-of-50) for the game. The Toreros' leading scorer, sophomore forward Amber Sprague, missed all eight of her field goal attempts and finished with only one point.

Center Sabine Loewe led the Toreros against Boise State (4-3). The senior had eight points and eight rebounds in Taco Bell Arena.

Two days earlier, the Toreros won a 72-67 shootout at Pacific. USD made 44 percent of their field goals in the win at the Alex G. Spanos center.

Sprague had 27 points and five rebounds in the win over the Tigers (2-4). Sophomore Kelly Winther also had a great game. She scored a career-high 18 points.

The Toreros (6-1) are in the midst of a six-game homestand to close out

the calendar year, which concludes with the Surf and Slam Tournament Dec. 28-30. Their next home game is Saturday against Cal Poly at 2 p.m.

Women's soccer player earns national honor

Toreros' junior forward Leigh Ann Robinson was named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America's All-West Region third team Monday. This is Robinson's first such honor from the NSCAA.

Robinson's third year on the team was her best. After switching from midfield to forward early in the season, Robinson finished as the team leader in goals and assists.

This award comes in addition to Robinson's being named first team all-West Coast Conference in November.

Pair of USD football players named to academic all-America team

Junior wide receiver Wes Doyle and sophomore safety Patrick O'Neill were named second team ESPN the Magazine Academic all-Americans. In addition, Doyle and O'Neill and senior linebacker Kyson Hawkins were named to the ESPN the Magazine Academic all-America District Eight team.



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